

The incident was the first to involve young children of parents in the security forces.

In a weekend of violence, Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, seen as the strongman in Algeria's collective presidency, narrowly escaped assassination in a car bomb attack on Saturday in Algiers.

(Continued on page 5)

Most American soldiers to leave Somalia by April

MOGADISHU (AP) — Most of the American troops in Somalia could be home in April under a plan being prepared by the United Nations, a U.S. military spokesman said Saturday.

As part of the plan, U.S. command of the multinational force in Somalia would be turned over to the United Nations.

President Bill Clinton said he was encouraged by the reported timetable and would "do some work" on the issue Monday.

"This does need to go from a U.S. mission to a U.N. mission," Mr. Clinton said during a White House photo session.

"Even though I think President (George) Bush hoped we could, I never thought we could do it by the end of January."

Military officials have expressed increasing confidence that the nearly three month-old Operation Restore Hope can be handed over to U.N. forces. The U.S.-led operation has quelled much of the clan violence that had kept relief aid from millions of people throughout the famine-racked country.

Farooq Mawlawi, the U.N. spokesman in Somalia, said the U.S. handover "will take weeks."

The Security Council is to consider the command shift at a meeting next week. If it is approved, then the U.S. military plans to send home most of the nearly 19,000 troops remaining before May.

"Looking at our timeline, that's perhaps technically feasible by mid-to late April," said Colonel Fred Peck, spokesman for the U.S. forces.

The plan, as reported by the New York Times Saturday, calls for the U.S. troops to be replaced by 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers from various countries. They would include 3,000 to 5,000 Americans, the newspaper said, quoting diplomatic and Pentagon sources.

The international force would be under the command of a Turkish general, the newspaper said. Somalia and other Arabs have said they want a Muslim to oversee the relief effort. Turkey is both Islamic and an ally of the United States.

The Security Council is expected to act quickly on a resolution to transfer command of the international force, the paper said.

The international force meanwhile, continued to face gunfire and seize weapons. Shoot-outs with Somalis left two Somalis wounded, and Italian troops sweeping through a Mogadishu neighborhood uncovered arms including more than 100 grenades, 12,000 detonators and four missiles.

A U.S. marine helicopter crashed on an airfield in Baledogle, injuring the four crewmen aboard, officials said.

The CH-53D Sea Stallion, of Marine Helicopter Squadron 363, was on a routine training flight when it crashed Saturday night in Baledogle, 100 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

Damage to the aircraft and the cause of the accident were under investigation, a U.S. military statement said. No one was hurt on the ground.

Italian forces at dawn raided a neighbourhood in northeast Mogadishu, finding weapons under bags of rice, blankets and furniture in homes and shops, said army Captain Ed Loomis, another U.S. military spokesman.

The stashes included 25 rifles, 22 heavy weapons, 103 hand grenades, 12,000 electronic detonators, 26 artillery and mortar shells, two TOW missiles and two Milan missiles, and four rocket-propelled grenades, he said.

No one was arrested or injured in the sweep, and some people even volunteered to hand over weapons, he said.

A Marine observation team on a routine check wound a Somali after coming under fire Friday near a stadium in an area. A Marine was killed in January, Capt. Loomis said, and Tunisian troops shot and wounded a Somali in the leg after he and four other Somalis tried to enter a supply compound, presumably to steal.

Of the crashed helicopter crew, the pilot and one crewman were flown to a U.S. army hospital at the Mogadishu airport for treatment and observation, the statement said. The two others were treated and released.

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Shelling duels erupt near Lebanon evictees' camp

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shelling duels erupted early Sunday in southern Lebanon, four days before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher tours the Middle East to revive peace talks.

Several artillery rounds fired from Israel's self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon crashed before dawn on suspected resistance strongholds at Dahir mountain, which overlooks the camp of nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israeli, police reported.

Neither side reported casualties Sunday. A militiaman from Israel's allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) was killed and nine others wounded Saturday when the guerrillas launched the attack with a mortar barrage on a forward SLA post.

The exchanges flared from dusk Saturday to daybreak Sunday, pitting Israeli and SLA militia gunners against Hizbollah.

Police said that the Israelis and allies pounded eight villages with rounds from tanks and Howitzers. Parachute flares lit up the area the Litani River basin 25 kilometres east to Dahir mountain.

Guerrillas struck back with mortar barrages aimed at outlying SLA and Israeli positions. They fired three Soviet made Katyusha rockets that exploded harmlessly west of Marjayoun, the main town of the "security zone," police said.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's military arm, has launched hundreds of attacks, including suicide bombings, against Israeli forces in South Lebanon in the past decade.

"We stress in the memory of the martyrdom of Sheikh Abbas Musawi that the resistance as a military act of (boly war) will continue and escalate... at any cost," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

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Pakistani mediator secures Afghan ceasefire agreement

KABUL (R) — A Pakistani peace mediator has won a ceasefire agreement from the Afghan government and its dissident guerrilla foe the Hezb-e-Islami after nearly a month of fighting in the capital, a spokesman said Sunday.

"Hezb-e-Islami and the government have both agreed to hold fire to facilitate our peace mission," said Khalid Khawaja, spokesman for retired Pakistani Lieutenant-General Hafid Gul.

The truce, agreed late Saturday, has no time limit and the peace brokers hope to negotiate a permanent ceasefire soon, Mr. Khawaja said.

The city was at its quietest since the battles between government forces and the Hezb-e-Islami of radical leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar erupted 27 days ago. Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 5,000 injured in the fighting.

No rocket or artillery fire was heard overnight or Sunday morning and residents took advantage of the lull to venture out to stock up on scarce provisions.

Food and fuel are in extremely short supply in the capital, and the United Nations says it has succeeded in supplying only one per cent of the capital's food needs.

A few bursts of machinegun fire erupted, but these were not unusual in a city patrolled by thousands of armed men from the various Mujahideen parties that took power from the former communist government in Kabul last April.

"There have been a few violations but they were mistakes or by people who did not know about the ceasefire," Mr. Khawaja said.

Gen. Gul, who led Pakistani military intelligence throughout much of the 14-year Afghan war and directed the Mujahideen parties in their fight, left Sunday for Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters at Charsayab south of Kabul for more talks.

He met President Burhanuddin Rabbani Saturday.

Mr. Hekmatyar is fighting to unseat Mr. Rabbani, accusing him of rigging his election last December.

Mr. Khawaja refused to give details of Gen. Gul's talks with the two rival fundamentalist leaders, saying: "It is very, very sensitive work."

It was unclear if the two sides agreed to the ceasefire out of deference to Gen. Gul, credited with being the architect of the Mujahideen victory over the former Soviet-backed government.

A previous ceasefire, negotiated last August by neutral Mujahideen parties and a Pakistani government minister to end bloody battles between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar, lasted for several weeks.

Government officials have said privately they were forced to agree to the truce, which they described as a mistake that enabled Mr. Hekmatyar to rearm and resupply.

The Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat party, based in the western suburbs and recently aligned with Mr. Hekmatyar, was not included in this latest ceasefire, Mr. Khawaja said.

The government said Hezb-e-Wahdat sued for a ceasefire from midnight Friday after the government made substantial advances against its positions, but soon violated it.

Mr. Hekmatyar has refused to halt his assault unless Mr. Rabbani agrees to elections within a year and the formation of an interim government acceptable to all parties.

In an attempt to take power, Mr. Hekmatyar launched an attack on Kabul last August in which 2,500 people were killed and thousands injured. He has since attacked the city intermittently.

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France wins \$3.5b tank deal from UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — France won a \$3.5 billion order from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for more than 390 battle tanks on Sunday against Tough competition from its Gulf war allies the United States and Britain.

The contract was announced shortly after the opening of the Gulf's largest defence show, IDEX 93, where more than 350 weapons manufacturers from 34 countries displayed their wares in what has developed into the world's most important arms market.

"The UAE will buy 436 French LeClerc tanks," UAE Defence spokesman Gamal Al Suweidi told reporters.

The LeClerc, made by France's state-owned Giat Industries, the U.S. Abrams M1A2 made by General Dynamics Corporation, and Vickers Defence Systems Ltd's Challenger 2 were all competing for the deal.

"It was a difficult decision choosing between three superior tanks," Mr. Suweidi said. He did not give the value of the deal but defence experts said it was worth at least \$3.5 billion.

Mr. Suweidi said Giat had agreed to re-invest 60 per cent of the deal's value in joint-venture projects in the UAE.

General Dynamics was strong enough to shrug off losing the contract but Vickers may be forced to shut one of two factories in Britain for lack of sufficient export orders, the experts said.

Giat officials said that the UAE's request that tanks would be powered by a German-made engine, the 12-cylinder MTU 883, which was on display at the first International Defence Exhibition, IDE, across the aisle from the LeClerc tank.

The 1,630-horsepower engine, made by the Deutsche Aerospace (DASA) unit of Daimler-Benz A.G., has been installed in 20,000 different battle tanks in the world, officials said.

Mr. Suweidi said he could not put a price tag on the deal "because of logistics and training" but added that it called for "an accelerated delivery... as soon as possible."

It was Giat's first export order for the LeClerc, developed in the late 1980s and previously sold only to the French army.

The Challenger and the original version of the Abrams tanks had both been battle-tested during the 1991 Gulf war.

Vickers last year lost a \$4.5 billion order to sell 256 tanks to Kuwait to General Dynamics M1A2. The experts said a \$300 million deal with Oman in January would prove insufficient to keep embattled Vickers out of trouble.

"The UAE's decision is very highly political," a disappointed British defence expert said.

General Dynamics officials said losing the UAE deal will have no serious effect on their company.

Britain and the United States remain the region's main arms suppliers but France, eager to penetrate the lucrative Gulf market, has close military ties with the UAE.

It sold the oil-rich UAE Mirage 2000 warplanes equipped with U.S. armament and air defence systems in the mid-1980s and defence experts say the two sides might soon enter fresh negotiations for more Mirage 2000s.

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Sudanese rebels rob U.N. workers

NAIROBI (AP) — Southern Sudan rebels robbed three U.N. workers and two airplane crew members when they landed in a town hit by famine and disease, the United Nations said Saturday.

Brenda Barton, a U.N. spokeswoman in Nairobi, said no one was injured and the aircraft was not damaged in the assault Friday.

"They took all their personal belongings and some medicine," Ms. Barton said of the rebels.

She said the flight was authorised a week ago by the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA), the humanitarian wing of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) faction loyal to John Garang.

"Apparently the town changed hands without SRRA knowing," Ms. Barton said.

She said about 200 armed men, who had mounted anti-aircraft guns around the runway, surrounded the Cessna 200 when it landed from the northwestern Kenya border town of Lokodaga.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Association said Saturday the Nasir faction of Riek Machar carried out the robbery.

But John Luke, a spokesman for the breakaway faction, denied his group was responsible.

"We have no forces there. They are just trying to create the impression we are hindering relief," Mr. Luke said.

Ms. Barton said the U.N. staff had gone to check on health and food requirements for the people, mostly members of the Dinka tribe.

As many as a million people have died due to war and famine and six million forced to flee their homes since the civil war started nearly 10 years.

The rebels took arms in 1983 to press for increased autonomy for the African and predominantly animist and Christian south, traditionally dominated by the Muslim north.

Ms. Barton said there were no plans for the U.N. to halt its missions to southern Sudan because of the incident.

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Iraqi dinar plunges after CBJ warning

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi dinar took a plunge in the local market Sunday in the wake of a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) warning that speculators were behind the dramatic boost Saturday in the exchange rate of the beleaguered Iraqi currency.

The Iraqi dinar was being traded at around 50 to 55 fils Sunday, down from 100 fils at closing Saturday, dealers said.

The climbdown followed a statement issued by CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi late Saturday.

"There is no change in the status of the Iraqi dinar," said the statement, adding that "speculation" was behind the sudden rise in the exchange value of the dinar.

The statement said the Central Bank would soon adopt "strict measures against speculators" and to "protect the interests of the public and the Jordanian and Iraqi economies."

"The CBJ warning — without directly intervening in the market — appeared to have worked well to disperse the frenzy for Iraqi dinars," said Qasim Al Muzari, manager of the main branch of Cairo-Amman Bank.

Several other banking officials agreed with the view, and particularly noted that the CBJ warning against speculation appeared to have been taken seriously by those concerned.

Banking circles and dealers agreed

that there was little doubt that currency speculators had built up the atmosphere leading up to Saturday's frenzy over Iraqi dinars.

Enlisting the willing on unwitting support of unlicensed moneychangers, the masterminds behind the scam used the weekend to spread rumours that it was only a matter of weeks before the United Nations Security Council would lift if not lift the international sanctions against Iraq.

The calm reported in the military front coupled with obvious Iraqi political overtures to Washington appeared to have fuelled the speculation, drawing in hundreds to scramble for the Iraqi currency.

The payoff came Saturday, when the Iraqi dinar shot up to 100 fils in the market, up from around 40 fils Wednesday, before slumping back to 50 to 55 fils Sunday.

Bankers and moneychangers expected the currency to fall further to 40 to 45 fils Monday.

"Ordinary people were the major victims of the scam," said Marwan Al Alami, head of the Alami Exchange House, a licensed moneychanger. "I have been advising clients not to invest in the Iraqi currency, but it seems that many were ensnared in the game."

"I am willing to bet that almost every household in Amman was engaged in yesterday's frantic search for Iraqi dinars," he said.

Several dealers reported that many Jordanians entered into selling their dollar holdings to buy Iraqi

dinars in Saturday's frenzy with hopes of high returns.

"Black market dealers and their masters took the cream of the profits," said a dealer. "They stage-managed the scheme very carefully and unloaded their Iraqi dinars into the market at more than double the prices they paid for the currency in the past weeks and months."

Mr. Alami, whose firm was offering 55 fils to the dinar at midday Sunday, underlined the superficiality of the exchange rates of the dinar in Iraq and Jordan, the only country where the Iraqi dinar is freely exchanged.

"At today's rate in Jordan, one could buy up to 11 or 12 Iraqi dinars to the dollar," he noted. "In Baghdad, the dollar fetches not less than 30 dinars."

"The entire exchange system for the Iraqi dinar is crooked," he added.

Mr. Alami said he believed that it would take "many years" before the Iraqi currency could regain any semblance of its pre-crisis value; it was sold four to five to the American dollar in the black market prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The officially set exchange rate remained the same at \$3.1 to every Iraqi dinar.

"Even if the U.N. were to lift the sanctions tomorrow, I don't think the Iraqi dinar could regain its value," said Mr. Alami. "Iraq needs billions and billions of dollars to stabilise itself and it would be many years before it can achieve stability."

The official noted that there was a

large amount of forged Iraqi dinars in circulation in Iraq as well as outside, in addition to two types of legal currency: the first is nicknamed "European" and the other "askari" (military).

The term "European" stands for Iraqi notes printed in Europe and in circulation prior to the Gulf crisis and "askari" denotes those printed by the Iraqi government when faced with a shortage of currency and refusal by Britain to release banknotes printed under contract with Baghdad.

"Askari" notes fetch 20 to 25 per cent less than the value of "European" notes.

The Iraqi government has accused the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Israel, Saudi Arabia and Iran of printing and distributing hundreds of millions of Iraqi dinars in forged currency in a bid to further undermine the country's economy.

It was difficult to estimate with any degree of accuracy the volume of the Iraqi currency that changed hands in Saturday's hectic trading in the Jordanian market.

But exchangers and banking officials have said that several hundred million Iraqi dinars were in the hands of speculators in Jordan alone.

In addition, some banking officials say the billions of Iraqi dinars ("European") that were transferred to speculators in the Gulf states, notably Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in the past two years appears to be slowly making their way back to Jordan after the Kuwait central bank banned all deal-

ings in the Iraqi currency three months ago.

According to the international banker as well as other banking circles, hoarders of Iraqi currency run the risk of losing all such holdings if the Iraqi government were to declare the "askari" notes null and void at any given point in time.

On the other hand, some observers recall that the Iraqi government had faced a similar situation in 1976 but opted to continue to honour locally printed banknotes even after finding itself under heavy pressure to withdraw them.

They also note that President Saddam Hussein, although not holding presidency, was effectively in control of running the country during that crisis.

"Iraq has an excellent track record of honouring its own currency under all circumstances," said an observer. "It is a matter of national pride for the Iraqis which will not easily be sacrificed by the Baathist regime in Baghdad."

Reports from Baghdad said Sunday that the Iraqi government was gaining strength and prices were falling in the Iraqi market against rumours that the sanctions were to be lifted soon.

"Iraq's economy, battered with 30 months of a blanket embargo, reacts quickly to rumours and news that Baghdad is looking for an accommodation with U.S. President Bill Clinton," said a Baghdad trader quoted by Reuters.

Sharif Zeid discusses ties with visiting N. Korean team

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Sunday met with a visiting North Korean delegation and expressed appreciation of North Korea's aid in support of Palestinian and Arab causes.

Sharif Zeid said the North Korean parliamentary delegation's visit is expected to strengthen ties and cooperation between Jordan and North Korea.

Head of the delegation Yang Sop expressed his satisfaction with the development of relations between his country and Jordan and voiced North Korea's support for the Palestinian people and support for solutions to international conflicts through dialogue based on justice.

Following the meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Hyong Sop and his delegation met with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber to review Middle East and world affairs. Mr. Hyong Sop and Dr. Abu Jaber called for the establishment of Middle East peace based on U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Sop and his delegation called at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and were briefed by its president, Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, on the university's programmes and activities.

Dr. Ajlouni discussed with the visitors the prospect of launching educational cooperation with Korean universities. He also accompanied the parliamentary delegation on a tour of the campus.

Brucellosis workshop to form regional plan

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day regional workshop opened Sunday in Amman to coordinate efforts of seven Middle East countries in combating brucellosis, a disease caused by the bacteria affecting especially cattle and causing undulant fever in humans.

In welcoming the delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Oman and Turkey, Minister of Agriculture Khasawneh said the workshop is designed to produce an integrated programme that will benefit the participating nations.

J.N. Resident Representative Jordan Omar Hashem addressed the opening session and outlined the importance of the meeting in finding ways to protect human health as well.

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representatives outlined the various topics to be discussed and a report on combating brucellosis in a number of countries.

He said that in light of the workshop's findings, efforts will be made for international financing of resultant projects.

Several working papers will be reviewed including statistics of brucellosis cases in each country, achievements in combating the disease and proposed programmes for collective work.

According to Dr. Khasawneh, recent surveys in Jordan showed a decline in the rate of Brucella infection, but he said there is still a need for a regional plan to deal with the problem.

He added that since the mid-1980s the Ministry of Agriculture took measures against brucellosis through vaccines in cooperation with international organisations.

Dr. Khasawneh said the ministry had also started producing brucellosis vaccines.

The four-day workshop is being organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the FAO and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Satellite channel goes on the air May 2

By Saad Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's satellite television channel will become formally operational on May 2, 1993, the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Jordan Television's (JTV) 25th anniversary, according to Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Director Radi Alkhas.

Mr. Alkhas told the Jordan Times that experimental transmission through this channel started in February and viewers expressed satisfaction with the programmes, he said.

The new service will operate through channel 24 of ArabSat, the Arab satellite, which is financed by Arab countries.

Viewer feedback from Saudi Arabia, the Gulf region and other Arab states is excellent, Mr. Alkhas reported.

He said the experimental telecasts included news programmes in Arabic, French and English, in addition to other local programmes.

Mr. Alkhas said that in preparation for the formal opening, the corporation has appointed correspondents for the channel in London, Brussels, Paris, Vienna, New York, Washington, Cairo, Tunis, and Rabat, adding that more



Radi Alkhas

correspondents will be added shortly.

To boost domestic telecasts a small television station located in Irbid has started broadcasting morning and evening programmes for the Irbid region only, Mr. Alkhas said.

He added that a television studio in Karak will be opened soon, and similar studios will be established in different governorates before the year's end.

Mr. Alkhas said the corporation is also establishing an agricultural television station in the Jordan Valley in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide guidance and extension services to farmers.

Jordan to head Arab sports panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan was chosen to head an Arab sports committee charged with drafting a future working plan for sports activities and events in the Arab World, Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat said Saturday.

Dr. Irshaidat who participated in a recent meeting of the Arab Youth and Sports Council in Beirut said the Arab youth ministers decided that Jordan would host the Arab-African youth camp next summer.

Dr. Irshaidat said the council has established a ministerial committee to follow up the reconstruction of sports facilities in Lebanon devastated by the civil war.

The committee will prepare a comprehensive study, including an estimate of the reconstruction costs, the minister said.

Jordan to begin first nursing programme for terminally ill

By Maha Akladi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An agreement between the General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was signed Sunday, to introduce a "model" community-based nursing programme to care for the terminally ill in Jordan.

The "Malath" programme, the first of its kind in Jordan, will consist of an interdisciplinary health care team of nurses trained in caring for the terminally ill, according to Joann Harrison, wife of the U.S. ambassador to Jordan, who played a leading role in the planning and establishment of the hospice programme.

"Previously, there has not been a health care resource in Jordan where patients and their families could seek support when curative care was no longer possible," Mrs. Harrison said. "So a group of concerned persons in the community recognised the need for such a programme," she said.

"The programme goals include keeping patients at home as long as possible, and helping them to live as fully as possible and at affordable costs. The programme also aims at educating health professionals and the general public, but most importantly it aims at supplementing and not duplicating existing services," Mrs. Harrison said.

According to a founding member of the Malath programme, Joan Mary Majali, services will be available 24 hours a day from the programme's office in Jabal Al Weibdeh.

The total cost of the program-

me is estimated at \$91,000 of which USAID will provide \$53,000 in technical assistance, initial equipment and supplies.

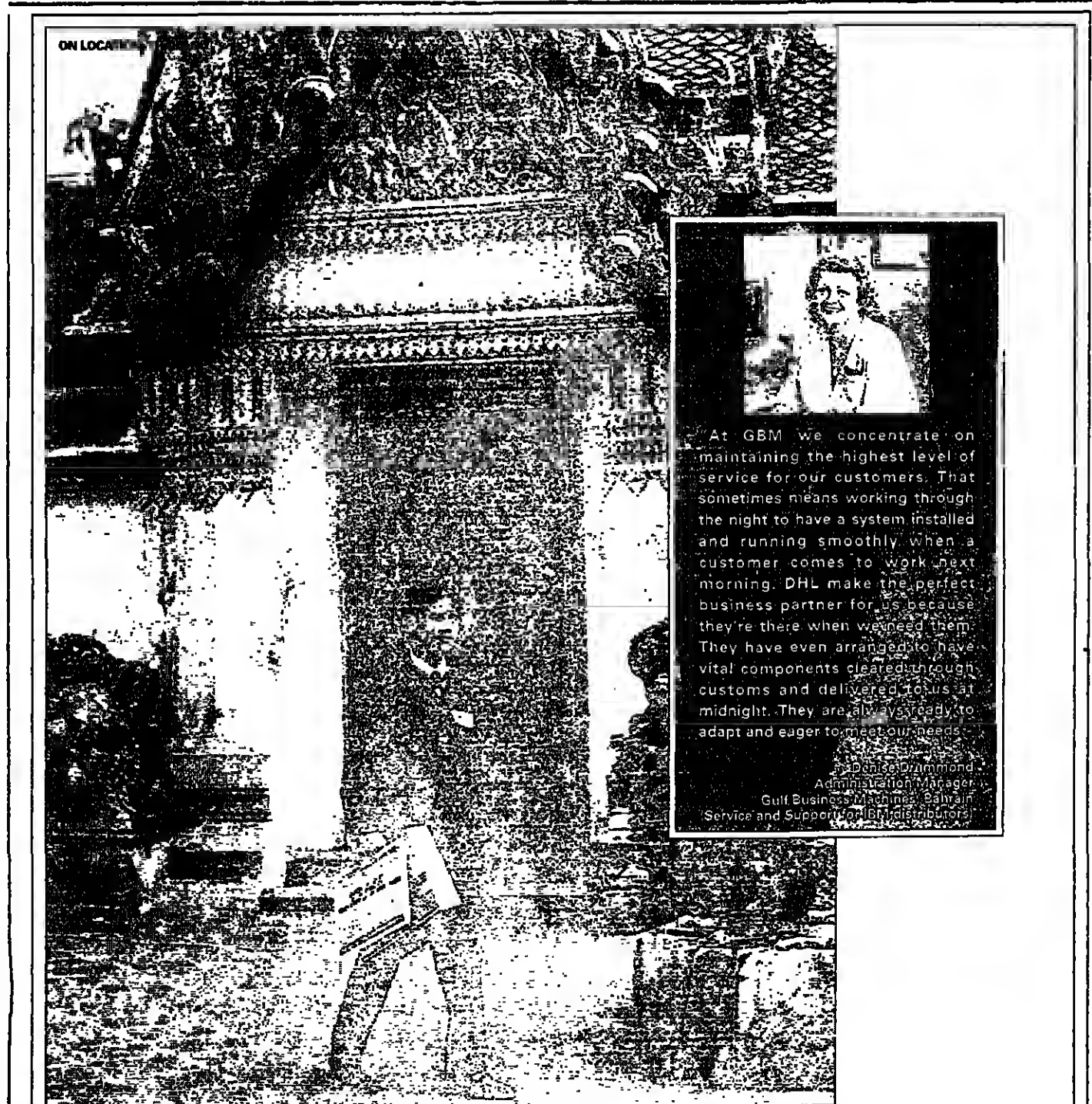
The remaining funds will be provided by GUVS.

It also stated that if the pilot project is successful, similar programmes will be established throughout the Kingdom by GUVS, and that a separate voluntary society is being established for this purpose.

Mrs. Harrison said it is important to incorporate such a programme to suit Jordan.

The hospice programme must be made "culturally acceptable for Arabs" and must be "cared for by Arabs in Jordan," she said.

The agreement was signed by President of GUVS Abdullah Khalib, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison and USAID Director William Oliver.



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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.

Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Nab'a at Bahadun Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatmal at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais city.

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Saba Noursi and Afaf Zuhayr — at the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabel Amman, between the First and Second Circles.

Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Hayat Jamil Hafiz at Alia Art Gallery.

FILMS

French film entitled "La Vie de Famille" at the French Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

'Video of "Damn Yankees" at the American Centre at 5 p.m.

U.N. appoints new ESCWA head

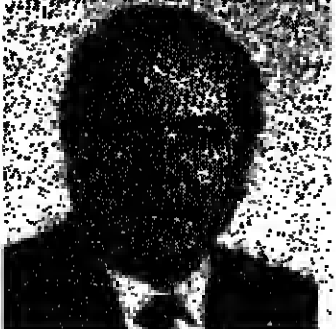
AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has appointed Sabab Bakjaji as Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), at the level of Under-Secretary General.

Dr. Bakjaji was Syria's Minister of State for Planning in two successive cabinets, during the period 1985-1992.

He was a professor at Damascus University (1967-1972) and served two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, from 1973 to 1976 and again from 1981 to 1984.

In addition to his ministerial duties, he continued academic activities.

Dr. Bakjaji obtained the Doctorate D'Etat in actuarial sciences in 1967 from Leuven (Belgium) Catholic University in Belgium, after obtaining a Licence in mathematical and physical sciences from Damascus University and a Licence in actuarial sciences also from Leuven.



Sabab Bakjaji

He has authored several works and conducted research in the economic and social fields, including transport economics, informatics and econometrics.

Dr. Bakjaji also prepared studies related to statistical analysis, re-insurance, actuarial mathematics, electronic data processing and operations research.

Born in Deir Az-Zawr, Syrian Arab Republic in 1930, Dr. Bakjaji is married and has three daughters and one son.

Jordan Caritas to attend regional meeting in Beirut

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives of Caritas organisations from Jordan and other North African and Middle East countries are opening a week-long meeting in Beirut Monday to discuss migration of Arab nationals to foreign countries and the adverse effect of such moves on socio-economic development.

Father Mousa Adeli who heads Jordan Caritas told the Jordan Times that the meeting will discuss ways to initiate socio-economic projects to help encourage people to remain in their own Arab region.

Caritas policy is to help the indigenous population to settle in

their own country and to discourage them from going abroad especially to the industrialised nations where there are complaints of high unemployment and economic recession. Father Adeli said.

The meeting will also be attended by organisations specialising in migration and providing assistance to Third World countries in order to boost their socio-economic development, he said.

Father Henry Boulad, president of the Near East and North Africa region will preside over the Beirut meetings.

Jordan Times

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Inch closer to Black Sea

THE ONGOING visit of a high-level Jordanian delegation headed by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid to the new independent Islamic republics appears to be producing instant and positive results on the diplomatic and economic levels. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan have all agreed to forge closer relations with Jordan in the wake of His Majesty the King's decision to send the delegation there. Closer ties with those countries could be translated into not only warmer political relations but also cultural and economic as well.

Many states from various regions of the world are rushing to establish contacts with the new independent Islamic countries in the wake of the collapse of former Soviet Union, since most of the Islamic tier in former U.S.S.R. are rich in resources and well endowed with yet unexplored wealth and economic potential. But what binds Jordan with these countries and their peoples goes beyond trade and commerce. Being Islamic, we share with them and the rest of the Arab World common religion and culture, on the basis of which stronger relationships can be forged. In due course, many Arab and Islamic embassies will be opened in these countries to give expression to the newly-initiated contacts.

Jordan no doubt will be among those countries that would pioneer this trend. Given the warm and friendly receptions accorded our delegation, in Baku, Tashkent and Bishkek, we can expect reciprocal visits from the governments of the three states to Jordan in the near future. This is a time for getting acquainted with the unique opportunities that the Islamic countries in the Black Sea region can offer and an occasion to establish new bridges with them. As those Muslim countries had lived under the heavy shadow of U.S.S.R. for a long time contacts between them and the rest of the Islamic and Arab worlds were indeed difficult and remained at a low level. Now that they are free and breathing freely away from the domination of Moscow, however, they can be expected to highlight their own identities and open the road for stronger ties with the rest of the international community on the basis of their unique circumstances and background. Jordan therefore has done well to take the initiative in starting relations with them. And we hope the step can be followed up in a manner which serves the mutual interests of all sides.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE U.N. Security Council has washed its hands of Resolution 799, concerning the repatriation of the deported Palestinians, by declaring that the U.S.-Israeli compromise of returning 100 of the expelled men only was sufficient and a step in the right direction, said Al Rai' Arabic daily Sunday. In fact, such a declaration constituted a way of escaping from the duty of implementing the resolution and tricking the world community into believing that the Israelis were indeed implementing the resolution while in reality they are not, said the paper. It is also strange to hear the Arab League secretary general issuing a statement accepting the compromise at a time when the evictees' issue is far from being resolved, the daily added. Indeed, the U.N. announcement that it accepts the compromise represents a defeat for the United Nations Organisation and its Charter and provides another evidence that the Security Council has been transformed into another tool in the hand of the United States State Department, the paper continued. The ignominious behaviour of the U.N. Security Council vis-a-vis Resolution 799 sets a very dangerous precedent that could be repeated with resolutions 242 and 338, the paper warned. It said that now, in the light of this development, Israel is expected to conclude another compromise formula with the U.S. administration concerning the other council resolutions, rendering them void of any substance and inapplicable. In the light of these developments, the paper added, it would not look strange to the world if the Israelis and the Americans concluded another formula, paving the way for a perpetuated Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed the plight of the Iraqi people under the sanctions which are taking the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and children every year. Sameh Hanandeh said that shortages of drugs and food have taken their toll among the civilian population while the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq provide evidence of the magnitude of the crime being committed by the American and Zionist alliance against the Arab Nation and against humanity at large, the writer noted. He said that while none of the U.N. resolutions concerning Palestine has been implemented, the Security Council, which is under constant U.S. influence, continues to impose the unjust sanctions that have wasted innocent lives. The killing of women and children through starvation and deprivation of the basic needs of lives constitutes a shameful crime serving as a stigma in the history of mankind, the writer added. He said that the Arab countries, which hold the power to terminate the sanctions and rescue the endangered lives of the Iraqi people, ought to take the first step to abort the U.S.-Zionist aggression on the Arab Nation.

Weekly Political Pulse

Commission on freedom, democracy and human rights — what is missing?

The country took another giant step in the direction of building on His Majesty King Hussein's proposal last year to establish a centre on freedom, democracy and human rights in the Arab World when His Majesty named the 20-member commission charged with the task of translating this ambitious idea into practice. Presumably, the first agenda item will be the enactment of a law on the establishment of such a centre on the basis of which it will be structured and start functioning.

It is puzzling, however, that the ministries of Justice, Interior and Foreign Affairs were not included in the commission. After all, it is the Ministry of Justice that will have to spearhead the legislative effort aimed at filling in the gaps in existing Jordanian laws touching on these domains. The Ministry of Interior is the most concerned with the application of the process of democratisation in the Kingdom and there is no excuse to keep it out of the endeavours of the commission. As for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is the most acquainted with Jordan's treaty obligations in the realm of human rights. To exclude it from the works of the commission is to deprive the commission of very valuable and basic information on where the country stands on the various international human rights instruments.

Since the commission is established by a Royal decree, it is for all intents and purposes a governmental agency. The exclusion of basic ministries from its membership is untenable and needs to be rectified.

The time will also come when the composition of the board of trustees to govern the centre and articulate its regional policies will have to be expanded to comprise eminent personalities from other parts of the Arab World. As long as the scope of the centre

is regional, it is just not possible to formulate guidelines on freedom, democracy and human rights on the basis of the experiences of Jordanian nationals alone, no matter how well they may be versed or interested in civil and political rights embracing contemporary norms and standards on human rights.

The international dimension is also woefully lacking in the composition of the national commission entrusted with the obligation of founding the suggested centre, physically and figuratively. Since Jordan and the Arab World cannot be expected to examine such important and pressing issues as freedom, democracy and human rights in isolation from the international scene, it would have been advisable to include people who are well-versed in the U.N. and other international organisations on human rights in order to make available the jurisprudence of several international bodies on human rights and related issues to the members of the commission.

Since there is also a fine line that separates human rights from humanitarian law, greater efforts should have been extended to include people who are also aware of such humanitarian subjects in the context of the broader topic of democracy, freedom and human rights. Against this backdrop, one cannot think of a better or more capable personality to head the newly created commission than His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is not only well-acquainted with all the issues that the proposed centre will address but also fully cognisant of the many international dimensions of these subjects. In retrospect, the national commission created for this purpose should be renamed as the Royal Commission under the honorary chairmanship of Prince Hassan

and composed of people from other parts of the Arab World as well as people acquainted with the centre's international dimension. Otherwise, the entire exercise will remain provincial, drawing only on the unique national experiences gathered from the Jordanian scene.

It would be presumptuous to assume that any of the people who are manning the commission can speak for the issues of democracy and human rights in the entire Arab World. Many Arab states have their own special problems, interpretations and experiences Jordan can draw on as well for developing further the Jordanian democratic process. Clearly no Arab state has a monopoly on what is right and what is wrong when it comes to the quest for democracy and human rights. It would be prudent, therefore, to address this deficiency as soon as possible.

In due course, the Jordanian commission will have to establish bridges with other existing Arab committees dealing with human rights, whether on the national or regional basis. There are several such Arab institutions that have already made considerable headway in the promotion and protection of human rights. In this vein, the existing Arab institutions are both governmental and non-governmental. A decision would also have to be made whether, in the final analysis, the Jordanian commission for the examination of freedom, democracy and human rights is going to function as a governmental organisation or as an NGO.

To be sure, there are other related issues that need to be ironed out in the future. The most constructive approach is to hold a regional conference on this subject before any additional steps are taken in this regard.

Coalition armies widen role in Somalia

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

GAILALASSI, Somalia — The U.S. led military mission to halt clan warfare and get aid to the needy has unofficially widened its role to include such tasks as rebuilding houses, digging wells and creating police forces. Officials call it "mission creep."

Italy's 187th Parachute Regiment came to Gailalassi in December on a mission to stop clan fighters and bandits from looting relief shipments intended for starving people.

This week they were laying bricks and hammering tiles on the roofs of damaged houses. They already had rebuilt the hospital and fixed a well.

In Mogadishu, a 3,000-member police force is being set up by coalition forces to assume traffic control and monitor feeding centres.

"When you're on a mission, you always want to move forward, not backward. You look for things to do," said Col. Fred Peck, the U.S. forces spokesman.

But Col. Peck warned there have to be limits or the foreign troops might get "mired deeper" than intended.

The United States wants to pull most of its remaining 19,000 troops out as soon as possible and turn the mission over to a U.N. force. The Security Council is expected to debate approval of

the new Somalia operation soon. Whoever agrees to carry on the effort, reconstruction and social services will be key to keeping the peace and keeping famine at bay.

Those measures are called for in a U.N. study prepared for a March 9 donors' conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In Gailalassi, a town of 8,000 people, 160 kilometres north of the capital, Italian troops initially confiscated weapons and patrolled the area while the Save The Children relief agency handed out food.

Col. Tiziano Nizzoli, the civilian liaison officer, said some Somalis were wounded in gunbattles with the troops, who suffered no casualties.

When the threat decreased, the Italians turned to non military projects such as fixing and rebuilding schools and hospitals.

Col. Nizzoli is helping provide veterinary care for livestock, organising trash collection and even a mail service via Italy. About 60 Somalis work for him and get paid with food.

He wants to persuade Italian businesses to return to Somalia, which Italy ruled as colony or protectorate for nearly 80 years until independence in 1960. Many of the local Somalis speak Italian.

"I don't need an interpreter. That makes it a lot easier to find out what they need," said Col. Nizzoli, known to town children as "capitano biscotti" or captain

cookie, because of his sweet handouts.

Somalis interviewed in the town said there was no resentment over Italian colonial rule, though some accused Italy of siding with Mohammed Siad Barre, before the dictator fled the country in January 1991.

Ensuing clan warfare left Somalia devastated and famine-stricken, leading to the allied intervention in December.

With more than 3,000 troops in Somalia, Italy has the second-largest force in the multinational coalition after the United States. Aid officials said they were welcome in Gailalassi.

"They know this place, and because of the common language, no one was killed when the Italians took over the area," said Ali Hajir Shiva, assistant director of Save The Children in Gailalassi.

Gailalassi and the rest of the country still requires huge amounts of aid.

Dr. Vincenzo Oddo of SOS Cooperazione, an Italian relief agency, pointed to flapping tarps instead of glass panes in the windows of one ward at the hospital.

"We need chairs, tables and windows," he said.

Italian patrols are still seizing weapons, and because of persistent banditry further north, the army planned to move its base to Bula Burd, 50 kilometres away.

Intellectual property laws key to tech transfer, investment

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — Developing countries can encourage foreign investment and the transfer of technology by establishing laws protecting intellectual and industrial property rights and strictly enforcing these laws, according to two U.S. experts.

Harold Wegner, director of the Intellectual Property Law Programme at George Washington University's Law Centre, and Timothy Trainer, a senior attorney with the U.S. Customs Service, discussed the protection of intellectual property rights during a Feb. 9 Worldnet Symposium television programme with participants in Amman, Beirut and Cairo.

Asked about the transfer of technology from industrialised to developing countries, Mr. Wegner said this transfer is wholly dependent on providing effective protection of the technology.

While many companies in industrialised states "would like the opportunity" to develop their businesses in the Middle East, they must first "make sure their technology is secure," Mr. Wegner explained.

To this end, issuing patents and establishing effective patent laws "are the best way of protecting technology," he said. Once these laws are established, their strict enforcement is a necessary step to

encouraging investment and technology transfer, Mr. Wegner said.

Educating the business community to the legal problems involved in copyright, patent and trademark infringement will also contribute to a healthy investment environment, he added.

Mr. Wegner advised developing countries to join the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), established by the United Nations World Intellectual Property Organisation. By doing so, the United Nations will handle the administration of patent granting procedures and allow developing countries to save on the cost of establishing their own patent offices, he said. Fifty-five countries are now members of the PCT, he said.

In addition, developing countries can and should seek cooperation from the three major patent offices in the world, located in Munich, Tokyo and Washington, D.C., Mr. Wegner suggested. "I am sure the U.S. patent office will be very pleased to cooperate with your country," he said.

The U.S. Customs Service "does work with the other governments to establish enforcement measures" of copyright and trademark laws, Tim Trainer noted. Customs Service representatives often travel abroad to

inform officials of other countries about U.S. customs laws and procedures, he said.

The U.S. Customs Service is presently "working closely with the Customs Cooperation Council in Brussels and talking with many countries" about developing an international computerised database to exchange information on trademarks and copyrights, Mr. Trainer noted.

Commenting on the future of international agreements on intellectual property rights, Mr. Wegner criticised the failure of agreement in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks last year, saying it was "a very sad event." The failure of the talks will lead to a "more ad hoc and bilateral" approach to discussions and agreements on intellectual property rights, he said.

Mr. Trainer said that while the GATT talks failed to produce agreement, the talks did provide "basic groundwork in the future" for intellectual property rights agreement.

"A lot of good things came out of the discussions," he said. "Even if there is no agreement, the talks 'can be applied to bilateral agreements.'" — United States Information Agency

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King meets with committee on Amman centre

(Continued from page 1)

id our forefathers at the beginning of this century when their nation faced a period of challenge, ingratitude and oppression. It is therefore imperative that membership in the centre be open to all free Arabs in the same way that the honour of joining the Great Arab Revolt was available to all free and noble Arabs springing to the unity and glory of their nation. Only this way will the centre be a haven sought by those who believe in human rights, freedom and democracy around the globe, those who have suffered the pain of incarceration and abuse, those who have patiently weathered indignity in their search for a world ennobled by freedom, justice and human dignity.

"The defence of people's freedoms, bolstered by cooperation with Arab and international organisations of a similar bent, requires strengthening of budding democratic practices in the Arab lands which may choose to adopt this approach. This is because the role of the centre is to instill the concept of freedom in those who suffer from oppression. It lies in exposing the evil of despotism and in inculcating patterns of thought based on a free, modern and rational discourse rooted in our nation's true traditions and in the most radiant manifestations of its benevolent message. It also lies in achieving a profound understanding of the contemporary world, and of the current change that requires comprehension of today's forces in order to expand the scope of freedom and progress worldwide, and in order to study the prerequisites for the achievement of balance between knowledge, power and wealth as

these changes are being made."

"In order for poets to express themselves freely, in a secure environment unmarked by oppression or individual tyranny — an environment in which children can sleep in peace and comfort, without being terrorised by fear, subjugation, or a sense of siege — we must stand up to illiteracy, hunger, disease, fear, tyranny, plunder, alienation, religious and sectarian extremism, and any other form of assault on man's freedom, rights and dignity."

"We are strengthened by our tradition of facing poverty with pride, our kin's injustices with fortitude, and ignorance with knowledge. The enlightened Jordanian vision and our commitment towards the Arabs have served as beacons at a time that has been the collapse of the fearful and the desertion of the hesitant. Jordan has remained a shining light guiding those who seek freedom. It has retained its unified spirit, with a clear vision and a dignified reputation. It is a rich depository of martyrs and innovators, and a true example of serene fortitude, self-abnegation, and opposition to tyranny and oppression. Let this centre, therefore, be the bridge that revives our links with the era of Al Hussein Ben Ali and of Abdul Rahman Al Kawakibi. Let it reemphasise the human values of freedom and the noble pursuits of writing and clear-headed awareness. Let it point out the dangers of oppression, disarray, civil wars, plunder or national resources, absence of vision, narrow-mindedness and immorality. Let the torches of freedom, fuelled by the light of our consciences, be enshrined in

our children's textbooks and in the lecture-halls of our universities. Let it be protected by the zeal of our soldiers. Let the dream of freedom from oppression and the attainment of the Arab individual's rights be a prelude to future unity, or at least, let it sustain the dream of unity in our hearts from the agony of its rejuvenation, the struggles of its intellectuals and the democracy of its regions to declare its freedom, its unity and its great universal presence."

Director of the centre Najib Al Rashdan thanked the King on behalf of the founding committee for his confidence in them and pledged to exert every sincere effort to turn the centre into a beacon for right, freedom, democracy and human rights in the Arab World.

"While implementing the Royal Decree, we pledge to exert our utmost and sincere efforts to turn this centre into a beacon of brilliance for legitimacy, freedom, democracy and human rights in our Arab World, guided by your Majesty's wisdom and directives," Mr. Rashdan said.

He said the King had launched "the march of freedom, democracy and human rights in Jordan, by announcing the establishment of this centre to enable the march to succeed and to turn it into a daily way of life for individuals and communities."

"Experiences of the Arab World during this century and the challenges facing it, have shown that had Arab countries adopted freedom, democracy and recognition of human rights as an approach, the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt in freedom and unity would have been achieved and the barriers imposed by the imperialist would have been removed long time ago," Mr. Rashdan said.

Foreign minister under criticism

(Continued from page 1)

the House with the names of citizens who have received assistance from the National Aid Fund.

Mr. Ekour, who had asked for the names in a letter he sent to the minister, said he would request an official questioning of the minister ahead of withholding confidence from him if the list is not made available to the House within a week.

In his response to the deputy, Mr. Mashaqbeh, who is recovering from surgery and did not attend the session, said it would

be improper to reveal the names of the fund's beneficiaries, but said any deputy or official authority can review them at the ministry.

Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti responded on behalf of the social development minister and said he has a list of the names which he will provide to the House.

During its two-hour session, the House also endorsed the decision of its Administrative Committee to refer some citizens' complaints to the government.

Abu Jaber reports success of talks

(Continued from page 1)

think, to use the methods we possess to get this resolution (799) implemented."

Mr. Sharaa was asked by reporters about the U.N. formula but he made no comment.

Asked whether any time was fixed for a meeting of Palestinians and Arab countries bordering Israel — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt — Dr. Abu Jaber said: "We discussed this issue. Arab coordination is continuing and the next meeting would be held in Damascus. But no time has been fixed yet."

Dr. Abu Jaber said his talks with Syrian leaders covered the situation in Iraq but he denied Amman was trying to mediate between Iraq and Arab countries

to return Baghdad to the Arab fold.

"We are not mediating because we were not asked to mediate. But it is natural that the situation in Iraq concerns Jordan as it concerns Syria," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

"The unity of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi land is extremely important for us. This is a strategic and vital issue and not a tactical one," he added.

President Assad was asked after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Damascus Tuesday about Iraq's attempts to return to the Arab fold and he said inter-Arab ties should be maintained on a strategic and not a tactical basis.

Saddam urges dialogue with Clinton

(Continued from page 1)

"I simply believe that we can pave the way for building new relations based on mutual respect and legitimate interests regardless of what had happened."

Mr. Clark, who also had talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf during his visit to Baghdad, was not available to comment on his meeting with President Saddam.

Mr. Clark, a leading U.S. anti-war activist, served the Johnson administration as attorney general from 1967-68. He opposed the

Vietnam war, the Gulf war, and U.S. military actions against Panama, Grenada and Libya.

He denounced the bombing raids ordered on Iraq last month to enforce "no-fly zones" over northern and southern Iraq. A factory and hotel in Baghdad were also struck by U.S. cruise missiles in an attack on what Washington said was an Iraqi nuclear weapons facility.

Mr. Clark told reporters before the meeting that the best way to start a new U.S. relationship with Iraq would be to ease the United Nations sanctions.

Exiles urge Arabs to reject U.N. move

(Continued from page 1)

arrange for the return of all the evictees as soon as possible.

The Israeli proposal to take back 101 and cut exile terms for the rest was brokered by the United States to head off an Arab drive for U.N. sanctions against Israel and put back on track the Middle East peace talks stalled by the expulsions.

But Palestinian negotiators still insist all of the alleged Islamic militants Israel forced into exile on Dec. 17 must be allowed back before they will return to the peace talks.

"I don't think Arab countries will go back to negotiations (with Israel) before the (expellees) can return," Dr. Rantisi said.

He said the Arab foreign minis-

ters should continue to strongly oppose the killing of Palestinians by Israeli troops in the Israeli-occupied territories and the destruction of homes.

"We flatly refuse Friday's U.N. declaration because it is circumventing Resolution 799. I don't think Israel will succeed unless we bow and we will never bow," Dr. Rantisi said.

"I would like to tell Mr. Christopher America has to realise that we have a strong will despite our bitter, painful suffering. This will is the one that will win in the end," he added.

Dr. Rantisi said the evictees would never agree to return in stages even if Israel renounced expulsion as a policy.

Rabin expects Palestinians at talks

(Continued from page 1)

visited Syria said Sunday that Damascus sees no link between the repatriation of evictees and the resumption of the peace talks.

Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, stopped in Egypt on the last leg of a Middle East tour that included visits to Syria, Jordan and Israel. Republican senators Hank Brown from Colorado and James M. Jeffords from Vermont accompanied him.

The senators held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the peace process.

"The problem with the deportees is obviously a problem but even in Syria we were told that there is no linkage between the deportees and the peace talks," Mr. Specter told reporters.

"The deportation issue has to be dealt with but I think the Syrians are interested in moving ahead," he added.

Syria, like all Arab countries involved in the peace process, has insisted that Israel return all the evictees before returning to the negotiating table.

Yehonatan Omran, a Syrian assistant secretary general of the Arab League, said Sunday that the Security Council compromise on the return of the evictees was not enough and Israel should take them all back as soon as possible.

Militants attack Algerian schoolbus

(Continued from page 1)

Four policemen died Saturday, gunned down in the Algiers suburb of Al Harrach less than 24 hours after the authorities announced they had executed four fundamentalists.

Gendarmes' headquarters said soldiers Saturday killed three fundamentalists near Bounouh Tidi, 48 kilometres south of the capital. Another had been killed shortly before, it said in a statement.

"The attack on Nezzar, the deaths on Saturday and now the bus incident, plus the executions announced by the authorities, show a growing hard line by both sides," a Western diplomat said. More than 250 members of the security forces have died in ambushes or clashes with fundamentalists since a state of emergency was imposed in February last year during political upheaval.

The state of emergency, extended indefinitely last week, was decreed after violence erupted when the army-backed authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election dominated by the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Military courts have condemned 48 men to death in the past

year for violence. Six men, including two members of the military, have now been put to death in a month — the first such execution for decades.

The gendarmes said the children on the minibus attacked on Saturday were being taken to a primary school from outside the town of Reghaia, 40 kilometres east of Algiers.

"The driver...was seriously wounded by three terrorists armed with a submachinegun and two automatic pistols," it said several hours before announcing that he had died. The attackers fled in a car.

Fundamentalists have been blamed for killing 41 civilians, including parents of security force members. But there have been no previous attacks directly involving children.

Commenting on the attack on Nezzar, the newspaper Al Watan, usually well-informed on security matters, said government members and other state officials were now living in a "protected zone."

A diplomat commented: "The attempt to kill him seemed to show good intelligence about his movements, a fairly sophisticated operation, with an equally sophisticated bomb."

Israelis kill youth near Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

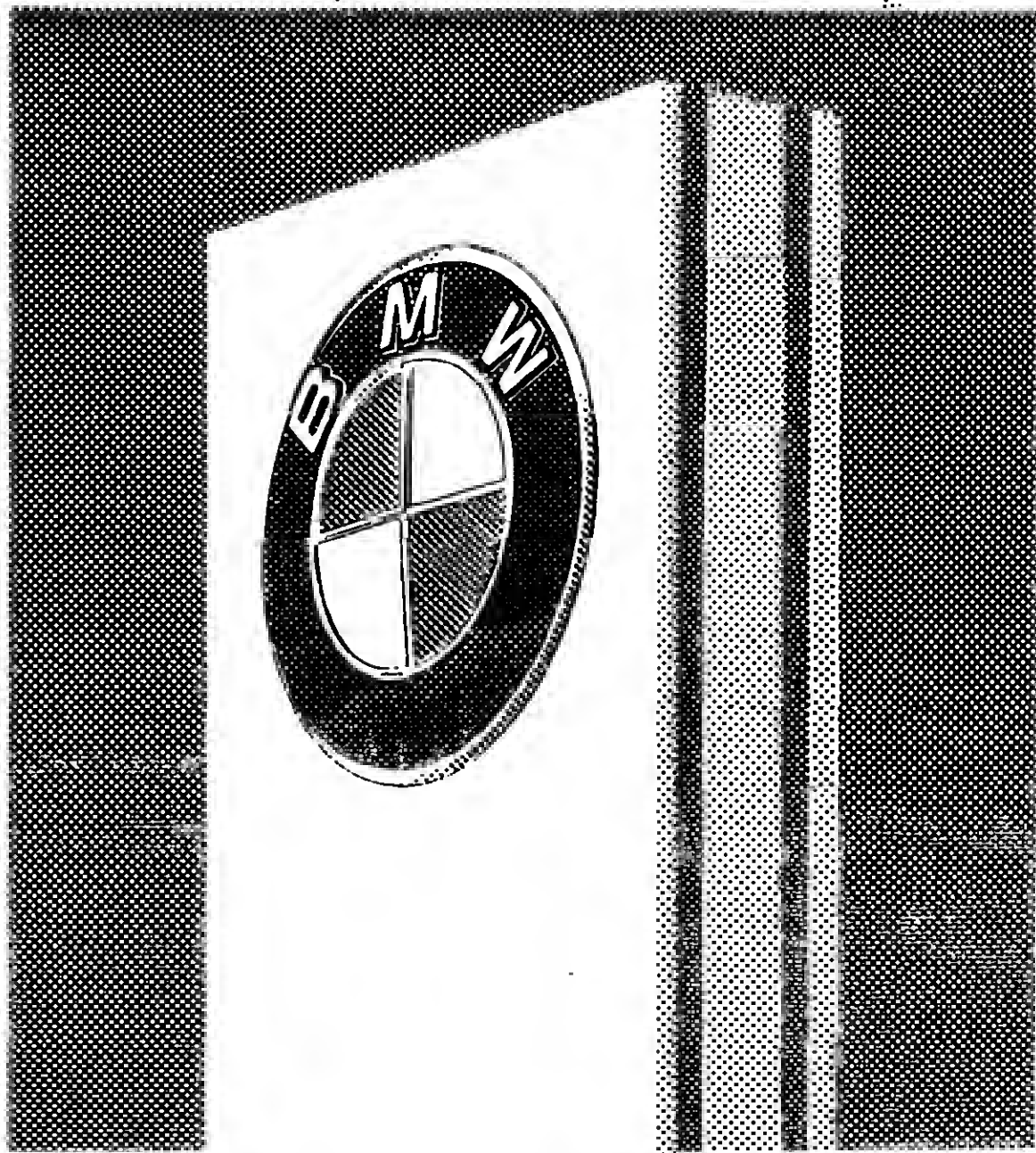
A Foreign Ministry spokesman meanwhile said Egypt rejects Israel's unjustified escalation of violence in the occupied territories.

He said the use by Israeli forces of anti-tank rockets and explosives to destroy houses in Gaza represents a flagrant violation of the Geneva agreement and other international accords. "Such practices constitute a genuine obstacle to peace," the spokesman, Naji Al Ghatreify said.

The Arab League is scheduled to meet next Tuesday to consider the Israeli measures against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the 21-member group, told reporters Saturday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) requested the meeting after Israeli occupation forces cracked down harshly on Palestinians in recent weeks.

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Winners of the Women's Super Giant Slalom, Sylvia Eder of Austria (2nd place, left), Katja Seizinger of Germany (winner, center), and Astrid Loefer of Norway (3rd place, right) raise their hands after the race at the Alpine World Ski Championships in Shizukushi, Japan (AFP photo)



Faisali lose, but retain semifinal berth

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Faisali Sunday lost 1-0 to Egypt's Al Ismaili in the final match of the first round at the 8th Arab Soccer League Champions' Tournament held in Qatar.

With this result, Al Faisali took second place in Group I and will meet Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab in the semifinals Tuesday, while Al Ismaili will play Qatar's Al Arabi.

Unlike their first match at the tournament, in which they scored a 7-2 win over the United Arab Emirates' Al Shabab club, Al Faisali played a dull and unimpressive match in which their opponents had a clear upperhand.

Both teams did not have any real chances throughout the first half as they were clearly overcautious. Al Faisali depended on long passes which were successfully intercepted by Al Ismaili's defence. The first half ended in a scoreless draw.

Al Ismaili's strikers led more serious attacks and scored the match's only goal



Milad Abbasi

in the first minutes of the second half. Three minutes later Al Ismaili failed to capitalise on another easy chance which was blocked by Al Faisali's goalkeeper Milad Abbasi.

On the other hand, Al Ismaili's goalkeeper, Sa'fan Al Sagheer, was not tested much as Al Faisali's well-known top scorers Jiryes Tadros, Jamal Abu Abed, and Subhi Suleiman had a disappointing performance.

Despite the loss, Al Faisali qualified for the semifinals, alongside Al Ismaili from Group 1, while Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab qualified from Group 2 after they beat Tunisia's Al Taraji 3-2. The fourth qualifying team Al Arabi, beat Palestine's Al Quds 4-0.

STANDINGS

GROUP 1

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Ismaili	2	—	—	4	1	4
Al Faisali	1	—	1	7	3	2
Al Shabab (UAE)	—	2	3	10	—	—

GROUP 2

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Shabab (S.A.)	2	1	—	6	2	5
Al Arabi	1	2	—	5	1	4
Al Taraji	1	1	1	10	4	3
Al Quds	—	3	—	14	—	—

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
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BLOCK THE ROUTE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q 10 4
♥ A K J 9
♦ Q 6 2
♣ Q 5 2
EAST
♠ A J 9 8 6
♥ 10 8
♦ A 5 3 2
♣ 8 7
SOUTH
♠ K 5 2
♥ Q 6 2
♦ K J 10
♣ A J 10 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ 1 ♠
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠. Only players with a death wish would consider playing to the first trick before developing a strategy for the entire campaign. Here's a typical example, adapted from a hand that cropped up many years ago in a world championship match between Italy and the U.S.

Suppose you reach three no trump on a natural auction such as the above. West leads the seven of spades, you play low from dummy

and East contributes the eight. You win. Now what? The sensible thing would be to knock out the diamond ace, refuse the club finesse and concede down one. You hew the contract by postponing your planning until after you had played from dummy to the first trick! You can't make nine tricks without getting one extra trick in clubs, and as soon as West gains the lead, a spade through the table's Q 10 gives the defenders more than enough tricks to defeat you.

Now let's see what would happen if you were to play the queen of spades from dummy on the opening lead. The best East can do is win the ace of spades and shift to a club. Since a finesse could lead to defeat, you rise with the ace of clubs and lead the king of diamonds. If that holds, you can revert to clubs and are guaranteed nine tricks. Should East win the diamond, no return can harm you.

Is this a sure-trick line? No. You will go down to defeat if a diabolical East shifted to a club away from the king and West holds the ace of diamonds. But on any other lie of the cards at least nine tricks are in the bank.

Seles and Navratilova in showdown final

CHICAGO (R) — Martina Navratilova has won the Virginia Slims of Chicago a dozen times, but she will have to get past world number one Monica Seles in the final if she wants to claim a lucky 13th title.

The second-seeded Navratilova blew hot and cold in defeating Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-0 4-6 6-1, while Seles overwhelmed third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3 6-0 in her semifinal Saturday in this \$375,000 tournament.

The finalists exchanged compliments ahead of their showdown. "With Monica," Navratilova said, "I just hope I can see the ball. I'll be at the net trying to see her laser beam passing shots."

"She (Navratilova) loves this surface," Seles said about the defending champion. "It's made for her."

Last year, Seles won three of four matches against Navratilova, losing only in the Los Angeles final. They most recently met in the season-ending championships in New York last November, with Seles prevailing in the final 7-5 6-3 6-1. Overall, Seles leads their series 9-6.

"The last match in New York, everybody said I got blown out, that I was embarrassed," Navratilova said. "I just hope she doesn't play as well as that."

Navratilova needed just 18 minutes to win the first set against Maleeva, but the 23-year-old

Bulgarian rallied in the second. She broke Navratilova at love in the first game and at 30 in the seventh as she levelled the match.

Navratilova reasserted her dominance in the final set but afterwards said it hurt her to have had such an easy time at the start.

"Sometimes you don't want to win a set 6-0. Because you can only get worse, you can't get any better," she said. "I didn't pick it up and she did."

The highlight of the Seles-Fernandez match came at the start as Fernandez held seven break opportunities in a marathon 15-minute opening game but could not cash in.

After that Seles won down Fernandez, who committed 30 unforced errors and lost for the 15th time in 16 matches against the Yugoslav.

Martin reaches Memphis final

Upset king Todd Martin made second-seeded Michael Chang his latest victim with a straight-set victory at the \$780,000 St. Jude International Saturday that lifted him into his first career final.

Martin, ranked 96, defeated Chang 7-6 6-4 to advance to Sunday's final and his biggest challenge yet — world number one Jim Courier, who defeated sixth-seeded Amos Mansdorf 7-6

2-6 6-4 in his semifinal.

Prior to this week, Martin had never beaten anyone ranked in the top 10. Here he ousted world number seven Chang and eighth-ranked Andre Agassi in successive days.

In the second round he eliminated 12th-seeded fellow-American David Wheaton.

"I've waited 22 years for it," Martin said of this dream week. "It feels great. It's definitely my best stretch of tennis."

Courier, who last month repeated as Australian Open champion, survived another spirited challenge in beating Mansdorf on his way to the final.

It was the third successive three-set win for Courier, who survived a match point in both his third-round match against Brett Steven of New Zealand and his quarter-final against fellow-American Jonathan Stark.

Martin, who towers over Chang physically, overpowered the favorite bolstered by his new-found confidence.

"I played a little bit too tentative the whole match," said Chang. "He was able to get a lot of good first serves in and was not letting up a lot on his second serve."

Becker swings into Milan final

Boris Becker blasted his way

into the final of the Milan Men's Indoor Tennis Tournament when he overwhelmed unseeded Australian Wally Masur Saturday.

Second seed Becker served 15 aces as he muscled past Masur 6-4 7-6 in 1½ hours to set up a final against unseeded Spaniard Sergi Bruguera who beat Czech third seed Petr Korda 6-4 0-6 7-5 in the first semifinal.

Masur reached dence only once on Becker's serve and won just 11 points in the German's 11 service games. The match was appropriately wrapped up when Becker served three aces in the tie-break.

"I got 67 per cent of my first serves in and that makes me happy because anything over 60 per cent for me is unusual."

Masur, ranked 37 places below Becker at 41 in the world, was fighting out of his division in more ways than one.

The tale of the tape — his 1.80 metres and 76 kg to Becker's 1.92 metres and 85 kg — showed itself clearly in their respective service games.

The Australian's first serve was timed at an average of 165 kph, about 25 kph slower than the average Becker missile.

Becker, not content with his excellent form, went straight to the practice courts after the match to tune his game for the final.

Bubka and Ottey break own world records

LIEVIN, France (R) — The irrepressible Sergei Bubka and the irresistible Merlene Ottey broke their own world records in a sensational day of indoor athletics Saturday.

Ukrainian Bubka, throwing aside all thoughts of tiredness after a 23-hour flight from Japan, set the 33rd world record of his astounding career when he cleared 6.14 metres in the pole vault, one centimetre higher than his previous mark.

Bubka was stung into action when his arch-rival Rodion Gataullin of Russia threw down the gauntlet with a six-metre clearance. The Ukrainian replied with 6.05 metres at the first attempt and then 6.14 at the second in the first meeting ever to see two vaulters clear six metres.

Ottey, putting behind her a succession of disappointments at major championships, ran her best race at the age of 32 as she shattered her own women's indoor record by 0.37 seconds.

The Jamaican ran away on her own, after Russian rival Irina Privalova pulled out of the meeting with a fever, to clock 21.87 seconds and become the first woman under the 22-second barrier.

Russian Lyudmila Narozhilenko chose the occasion to equal her own world record in the women's 60 metres hurdles with a time of 7.69 seconds.

Canadian sprinter Bruny Surin produced the second fastest 60-metre indoor run ever in 6.45 seconds and Namibia's Frankie Fredericks was within one-hundredth of a second of the men's 200 metres record with 20.37 seconds.

Frenchman Bruno Marie-Rose's six-year-old world 200 metres record of 20.36 seconds was set on the same Lievin track.



Jamaican Merlene Ottey waves to the crowd at the Lievin Indoor Stadium after breaking her 200 metres world record (AFP photo)

Ottey, who collected a double by winning the 60 metres in 7.01 seconds, was overjoyed by her triumph. "I didn't think I was on such good form," she said. "I can hardly believe it. I haven't run anything like this fast for two years."

The Jamaican, sensing the 200 metres record was on, glanced up at the electronic scoreboard as she came out of the last bend and put her head down as she surged for the line.

She left Mary Onyiah of Nigeria trailing by more than a second with third-placed Valerie Jean-Charles of France almost two seconds behind.

Narozhilenko equalled the record she set herself three years ago and Surin was four-hundredths outside American Andre Cason's 60-metre record of 6.41 seconds clocked last year.

Christie to retire after 'sorting out Lewis'

Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie said Sunday he would retire from athletics next year after he had "sorted out Carl Lewis once and for all."

Christie, who won both the 100 and 200 metres races at the Australian Sugar Games with consummate ease, said he was ready to race American Lewis, the man he dethroned as Olympic sprint champion.

The 32-year-old Briton, who became the oldest Olympic 100 metres champion when he won in Barcelona last year in Lewis's absence, said he was not planning to defend his title in Atlanta in 1996.

"I still want to sort out Lewis once and for all. That's my aim for this year. Next year is my last year and that's that."

"I know in myself I can beat him and I'll race him anywhere, anytime," Christie said.

Christie finished second to Lewis in the 1988 Seoul Olympics after Canadian Ben Johnson was disqualified, but did not face him in Barcelona because the American failed to qualify.

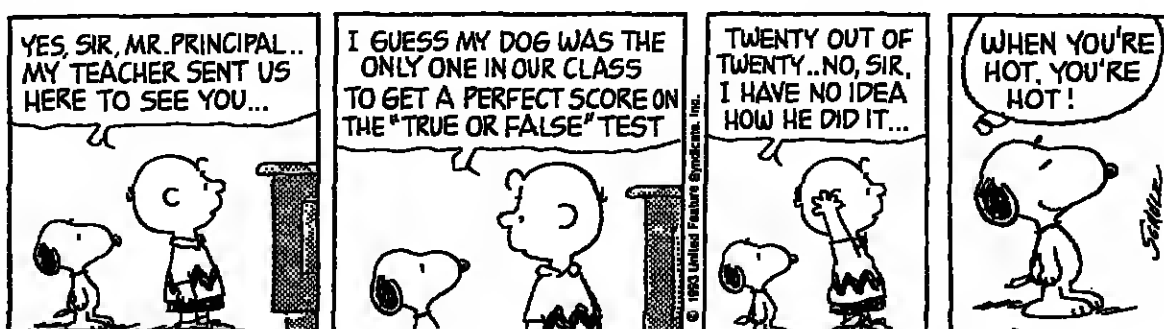
No date has been set for the two Olympic champions to meet, but they will almost certainly race at least once this season at the World Championships in Stuttgart in August where Lewis will attempt to defend his crown and Christie to win the one major title that has eluded him.

Christie, who has been training in Australia for the past six weeks, appeared to run within himself in winning Sunday's 100 metres in a time of 10.35 seconds from Australian Steve Brimacombe, second in 10.55.

Christie, who went on to win the 200 metres by more than half a second in 20.74, said he had felt nervous racing again.

"I didn't know if I still had the determination to go on with racing and winning," he said.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day can start off with a bang, and you may have to hoof it early morning, but the evening shows much promise as one of quiet. Introspection can indeed assist now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The morning brings you many new ideas and plans of action that can be helpful to you in the future; tonight finds you able to reduce these to workable, practical success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have suggestions from a confidential advisor on how best to gain a well rounded life; tonight do those things required of you for this purpose.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Many ideas come through your consciousness on how to gain a personal desire while later you find you need to probe how to make such a reality.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Start the day at vocational duties in the outside world or with the public but later you can put and gain your own intimate longings.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be alert to all kinds of interesting new activities that can catapult you forward while later you would be wise to attend to credit, civic conditions.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the moment for you to

get into whatever accounts etc. awaiting your attention, get them in back of you; then look out for new activities you like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Bring into the open now your plans for cooperative matters in the future; after which you can convince partners how to handle specific details.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Pick into and tasks facing you early in the day with enthusiasm and you get quick, good results while later you see new activities to engage in.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy to quickly obtain some benefit your attachment expects you to make special efforts to gain; then back an associate in that persons ideas.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate as much attention as possible in the morning on home problems even though, in a outside world while later you can put across a practical talent.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A morning when you see all sorts of means by which you can increase your productivity but tonight do what will add to your happiness at home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now can see smart ways to have more of this worlds goods so start action in such a direction; tonight brings a chance to get out statements and reports.

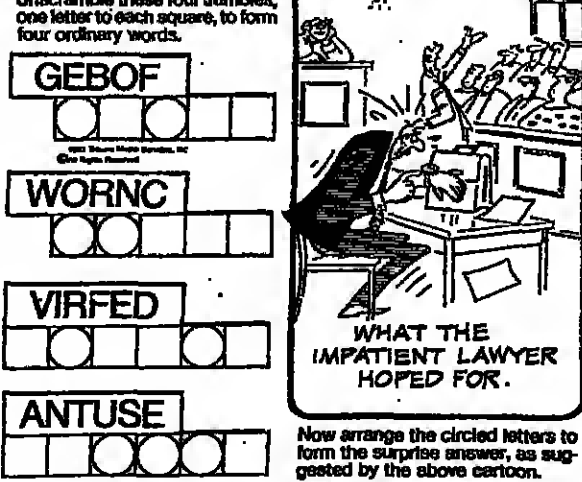
THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

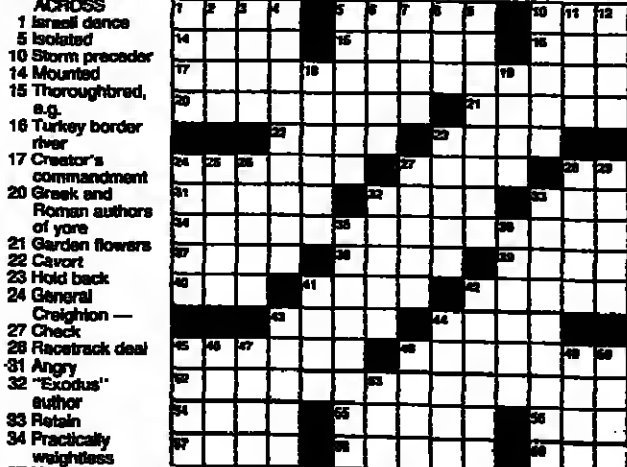


Answer here: A [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Jumbles: DITTY OCCUR TRIMING FARINA
Answer: Where you can always find happiness and contentment—THE DICTIONARY

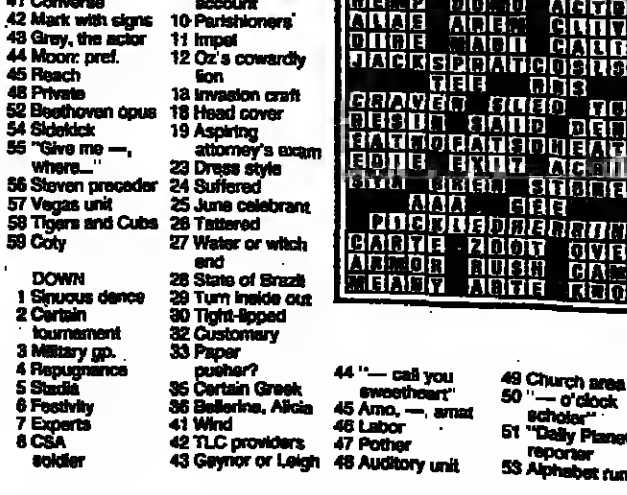
THE Daily Crossword

by Joel Davidson



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Yemen issues new 50 riyals banknote

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen's central bank said it would start circulating a new banknote Monday, the first to carry the name of the Republic of Yemen formed by the union of north and south Yemen in 1990.

A bank statement Sunday said the new note would have a denomination of 50 riyals (just over \$1 on the free market).

Old northern riyal and southern dinar notes will gradually be withdrawn from circulation.

Banking sources said the government was printing other notes denominated in 10, 20, 100, 500 and 1,000 riyals, but it was not clear when they would be issued.

Japan wants dollar to remain healthy

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Finance Minister Yoshio Hayashi said Sunday he had told U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington that the dollar must not plunge because it is a key global currency.

Speaking at a news conference, Mr. Hayashi noted that in theory, a sharp decline in the dollar's value could undermine the stable world economy and cause inflation in the United States.

Mr. Hayashi said Mr. Clinton told him that sound U.S. and Japanese economies should have a good impact globally and called for closer bilateral ties.

Mr. Hayashi had just returned from Washington where he met Mr. Clinton and U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen to discuss bilateral and global economic issues.

Mr. Hayashi said he believed it was mutually understood that the U.S. and Japan are opposed to manipulating currencies.

Asked if the Japanese finance ministry would let the currency market decide on dollar/yen rates, Mr. Hayashi said: "We have no choice but to monitor the moves for the moment."

He also noted the dollar's recent plunge against the yen was not disorderly.

Mr. Hayashi said he and Mr. Bentsen agreed when they met Friday currencies must reflect economic fundamentals and move in a stable manner.

U.S. and Japanese economic fundamentals are stable, Mr. Hayashi said.

Arabsat reports \$12m profit

DUBAI (R) — The Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) said Sunday it made a profit of \$12 million in 1992, the same as the previous year.

Arabsat officials told Reuters the company, an offshoot of the 21-member Arab League, had a 1992 surplus revenue of \$12 million. "The same profit was made in 1991," one said.

Arabsat is holding a six-day conference in Dubai, which opened Saturday.

Local press reports earlier quoted Arabsat Board Chairman Faisal Ahmad Zaidan as telling the opening session the profits would be used to help finance "the second generation of satellites."

Mr. Zaidan said the meeting would discuss the details of a \$258 million contract awarded in October to the U.S. Hughes Aircraft Co. to build two communications satellites for Arabsat. The first of the two HS 601 spacecraft is scheduled for launch in 1995.

Mr. Zaidan said Arabsat had overcome testing difficulties in its early years. Operating revenue from a satellite it launched last year was \$30 million, he added.

He said demand was so high for Arabsat channels that the firm was making arrangements to buy a satellite for temporary use until the launch of the second generation satellite being built by Hughes.

Saudi central bank steps in to control share offerings

MANAMA (R) — The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) has asked banks to reduce loans to would-be investors in an effort to control demand for new share offerings, bankers said Sunday.

"SAMA's action was aimed at discouraging investors from borrowing money to speculate in the Saudi stock market," one banker said by telephone from Riyadh.

Bankers said SAMA, the kingdom's de facto central bank, had approached banks Saturday asking them to lend no more than half the total of any sum extended to a customer wishing to invest in a share offering.

"Banks have been asked not to extend credits more than 50 per cent of total finances extended to Saudi investors wishing to buy shares offered to the public," a spokesman at Bank Al Jazira said by telephone from Jeddah.

Banks have previously lent up to 98 per cent of total finances requested by investors to buy new

shares, putting billions of dollars into share offerings, one banker said.

"The investor only pays between 2-5 per cent margin and can buy as many shares as he wishes," he said.

Share prices in the Saudi market, which operates by computer and telephone, have more than doubled since the end of the Gulf war two years ago but drifted back late last year after Saudi banks and firms flooded the market with new offerings.

Bankers said the SAMA move also aimed at stopping investors using other names to get more shares in the allocation process.

Saudi British Bank (SBB) Saturday offered 1.2 million shares to the public and 800,000 shares to its foreign partner HSBG Holdings PLC, the parent of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp., to maintain its 40 per cent stake.

The flotation, worth 1.14 billion riyals (\$304 million), was

aimed at boosting the bank's paid-up capital 150 per cent to one billion riyals (\$267 million).

The new shares were priced at 570 riyals (\$152) each.

SBB officials were not available to comment but other bankers said the move would not affect its shares because the kingdom had enough spare cash to cover the offer.

The official Saudi share index fell slightly to 193.79 points last week from 195.05 points the previous week, SAMA said.

Figures released by SAMA, carried by the Saudi Press Agency Sunday, showed trading volume in the five-day week which ended last Wednesday climbed to 674,044 shares from 588,097 shares the previous week.

The value of shares traded in the exchange rose 19.3 per cent to 247.9 million riyals (\$66 million) from 207.8 million (\$55.4 million).

Bentsen says Clinton's economic plan is a call to all Americans

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said Saturday that President Bill Clinton, in a financial package to be unveiled this week, would call on all Americans to help turn the economy around.

"What the president said is that everyone is going to be expected to make their contributions to get

this country moving again, and to turn this thing around," Mr. Bentsen said in an interview with the CBS Television Network.

On Wednesday, Mr. Clinton plans to unveil an economic plan before a joint session of Congress in which he will seek to reverse the "trickle-down policies of the 1980s" and create jobs.

Mr. Clinton, who was meeting on the weekend with his economic advisers to work out specifics of the programme, said in a radio broadcast Saturday that he would propose tax hikes on rich individuals and companies, and take on "special interests" who see the tax code as a game.

Mr. Bentsen said the pivotal plan reflected the administration's determination to work for "change, change in the process, and change in the objectives." (Clinton) is totally committed to getting this deficit down."

He said the continued decrease in interest rates reflected confidence in the administration's stated economic goals.

"When you see 30-year mortgages at a 20-year low, you can understand that the market is reacting to that," he said.

Mr. Bentsen confirmed that Mr. Clinton's economic package would include a surtax on millionaires and said, without providing specific figures, that the income tax rate on Americans making more than \$200,000 a year would be raised.

"That's going to go up, there's no question about that... they're the ones who have done the best economically during the '80s, whereas middle income has taken a hit," he pointed out.

He said no final decision had been made on whether taxes would be raised on social security benefits and added that an energy tax was an option still being considered.

Such a tax, which would hit the pocketbooks of Americans across the board, was hinted at last week by administration officials.

Vice President Al Gore, asked on the Cable News Network's

(CNN's) Newsmaker Saturday Programme whether Mr. Clinton's package would include some form of energy tax, said: "You will have to stay tuned."

Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman, speaking earlier on CNN, said the Clinton package would affect wealthy Americans but that sacrifices by the middle class would be "negligible."

"I would think the role that the middle class will play compared to upper-income taxpayers will be extremely small," Mr. Altman said.

Republicans have assaulted Mr. Clinton's plans to change the income tax structure as an attack on the middle class. Mr. Altman said that for a family earning \$60,000, spending changes and tax increases would not cause economic deprivation.

In his nationwide radio broadcast, Mr. Clinton said: "We will build an America where even the most privileged pay their fair share."

"Fairness" was the mantra on the lips not only of Mr. Clinton, but also of his top advisers and democratic lawmakers.

"We are not going to do anything that is unfair in its impact on the American people," said Mr. Gore.

"I think the programme is going to be fair, I think it is going to be progressive, very progressive, in terms of people who can afford to pay more," said Mr. Altman.

Mr. Gore said middle-class and low-income families with children could expect some tax relief.

And Mr. Altman said businesses could expect tax credits for capital investments.

But image-making was the order of the day. In his radio address, Mr. Clinton returned to his campaign theme of creating a fundamental change in the way America does business.

"If we don't change, the American living standards of our broad middle class will continue to decline," he said.

Kuwait plans spending cut to tackle deficit

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government plans to cut spending by 10 per cent in the 1993/94 fiscal year to further reduce a budget deficit swollen by Gulf war-related costs.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said the cabinet had approved the outline of a budget putting spending at between 3.5 billion and 3.7 billion dinars (\$11.5 billion and \$12.2 billion) and income at about 2.8 billion dinars (\$9.2 billion).

That compares with spending of four billion dinars (\$13.2 billion), income of two billion dinars (\$6.6 billion), and a two billion dinar deficit in the 1992/93 budget.

In 1991/92, the first full fiscal year after the end of the Iraqi occupation, the government ran a deficit of 5.33 billion dinars (\$17.5 billion), largely because of the costs of reconstruction and compensation for Kuwaiti citizens.

Sheikh Rodhan's remarks in an interview with Al Qabas newspaper published Sunday were the first indication the government has acted on opposition and parliamentary calls for belt-tightening in the fiscal year from July 1.

Sheikh Rodhan said the government expected the 1991/94 budget deficit would be about one billion dinars (\$3.3 billion).

He gave no clear indication of how it would be financed but said cutting government expenditure and maximising oil sector revenue could help balance the budget.

Simply pumping more oil would not help, he said.

"To deal with the deficit through increasing oil production... does not achieve the goals being sought," he was quoted as saying.

"We are trying to balance the budget. To do that, we are pursuing two main courses. The one is to improve oil income... and the other is to reduce spending to a minimum without affecting the standard of different services."

He added: "Rebalancing the budget does not really happen by raising incomes and raising oil production, which has limits and is a wall you cannot exceed. We wish to increase income. At the same time we must be keen to reduce expenditure and rationalise it, so enabling us to use each and every dinar being spent."

Sheikh Rodhan did not say which areas of spending would be cut but he said many services were heavily subsidised by the government and mentioned electricity and health care as examples.

Parliament, which began sitting last October for the first time in six years, has yet to debate the 1992/93 budget. Mr. Rodhan gave no indication as to when parliament would discuss either the 1992/93 or 1993/94 budgets.

Parliament wants the government to cut the deficit but at the same time members are under pressure from their constituents to ensure government jobs for all Kuwaitis and generous handouts for anyone with a grievance.

Armenia could run out of precious wheat soon

YEREVAN (AP) — Armenia could run out of badly needed wheat this month, deepening the crisis caused by an economic blockade that is part of the five-year war with Azerbaijan, say Armenian and U.S. officials.

Shortages of fuel and other basic commodities have forced Armenia's 3.7 million people to close down virtually all of their factories.

Electricity is off throughout Yerevan, and there is little traffic. Most shops are closed and residents spend their days gathering food and fuel to heat their house.

It is common to see small children using twine to pull bundles of sticks through the snow-

covered streets, resting every few yards to allow their undernourished bodies to gather enough energy to carry the fuel home.

"The diet has been reduced basically to bread and potatoes," said Gassia Apkarian, head of the Yerevan office of the Armenian Assembly of America, which is helping coordinate an international aid effort.

The average elderly Armenian has lost five kilograms over the past three months, and autopsy reports show that the fat layer on the average corpse has dropped from 6-9 centimetres (2.4-3.6 inches) to 2-3 centimetres (0.8 to 1.2 inches) over the past year, Ms. Apkarian said.

Canada's Bronfman empire to shed 37% stake in Labatt

TORONTO (R) — Canada's group in a week.

troubled Bronfman empire has agreed to shed its 37 per cent stake in brewing giant John Labatt Ltd. for 993 million Canadian dollars (\$775 million), the second major asset sale for the family since 1980.

The Bronfman family has been the latest Canadian investor to face a growing cash crisis largely because of sour real estate investment at home and abroad.

THE SCANDINAVIAN LADIES OF AMMAN

The Scandinavian ladies of Amman will have their monthly morning meeting on Wednesday 17th February, at 10 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel. All members and guests are most welcome.

FOR RENT

Modern Furnished Apartments
• One bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen & bath.
• Studio of one bedroom, kitchenette and bath.
Central heating & telephones.
Location: Jabal Amman (Zahran quarter) between 3rd & 4th Circles.
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SALESPERSON WANTED

A Jordanian firm of importers, specialising in drugs, medicines, and cosmetics is urgently seeking a dynamic salesman/woman to handle its cosmetics sales, promotion, and distribution activities.

The candidate should:
- Own his/her car.
- Be fluent in Arabic and English.
- Have prior sales experience.
Applicants should write, enclosing background education, and experience to:
The General Manager
P.O.Box 6425, Amman - Jordan or Fax No. 623077

REQUIRED

Procurement Assistant

Project management company seeks to employ a lady - recent graduate of university in the field of English Literature with high scores.
Work involves report writing, analysis, spread-sheet construction, business mail classification, all shall be in the secretarial office and computer station.
Office hours: One shift is acceptable, up to 4:30 p.m., but two shifts with lunch break is preferable.
Location: Shmeisani - Arab Bank H.Q. - Department of Palestinian Affairs area.
Applicants should send transcripts of their university degree and any courses to P.O.Box 5011, Amman - Jordan, attention R.F.H., or could call for clarification on 628967.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (February 8-February 12, 1993)

AMMAN — The issue of trade balances between Japan and the rest of the G-7 countries, particularly with the U.S. was the overwhelming concern among market participants throughout last week. The Japanese currency thus rallied significantly on talk of G-7 resolve to press Japan for a stronger yen. The Japanese unit thus finished the week three per cent higher against the dollar and mark. The dollar, on the other hand, was hardly changed against the mark and most European currencies, but was 1.7 per cent higher against sterling.

Monday was featureless as the dollar eased against the mark and yen in trading dominated by technical considerations.

The yen surged Tuesday, on fears that the leading Western countries, mainly the U.S., were about to increase pressure on Japan to reduce its trade surplus, by pushing its currency higher. Observers and analysts commented that dealers were mainly basing their expectations on the belief that the Clinton Administration will take a firmer and more "confrontational" stand on trade issues. Various statements from Japanese officials, including their finance ministry, also confirmed these expectations.

Hence while the yen continued to appreciate during the following days, it slowed down by the end of the week, ending it below the inter-day high it had seen. Analysts explained that it became clear to market participants that there was more than one scenario involved. On the one hand, it was thought that the Japanese government is unlikely to agree to push the yen by the full extent that the U.S. was calling for, which was 15-20 per cent higher, as it conflicts with the current fundamentals of the Japanese economy and the goals of the Bank of Japan. Even from the U.S. stand, a higher yen might only cause imported inflation without discouraging consumer demand for Japanese products.

Observers thus do not rule out the possibility of a yen appreciation to 118 yen to the dollar in the short term, but the longer term outlook remains unclear.

The British pound continued to decline, on the other hand closing at 2.3495 marks Thursday, its lowest levels yet. It rebounded slightly Friday, on comments from the governor of the Bank of England that the U.K. might tighten its monetary policy, and that there was no room for more rate cuts in the short term. The move was significant in that it challenged the market's previous assumption of British policy.

While the dollar traded in a tight range against the mark throughout the week, economic reports released confirmed that the outlook for the U.S. economy and interest rates was very encouraging, and was markedly in contrast with that of Germany and the rest of Europe.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	5/2/1993	12/2/1993	Percent Change
Swiss Franc	1.4445	1.4205	(1.66)%
Deutsche Mark	1.6603	1.6604	---
Swiss Franc	1.5325	1.5345	(0.13)%
French Franc	5.6125	5.6165	(0.07)%
Japanese Yen	124.40	120.68	3.08 %

* USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	5/2/1993	12/2/1993	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.56	3.06	3.62	3.00	3.56
Swiss Franc	6.19	5.50	6.13	5.63	6.19	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.31	7.12	8.50	7.18	8.31	7.12
Swiss Franc	5.22	4.90	5.50	5.02	5.22	4.90
French Franc	11.37	9.25	11.87	9.50	11.37	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.25	3.18	3.21	3.18	3.21

* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6920	.6940
Swiss Franc	.9808	.9857
Deutsche Mark	.4171	.4192
Swiss Franc	.4497	.4519
French Franc	.1233	.1239
Japanese Yen*	.5723	.5752
Dutch Guilder	.3705	.3724
Swedish Krona	.0924	.0929
Italian Lira*	.0446	.0450
Belgian Franc	.02022	.02032

* Per 100

ADAMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CREDIT ADAMAN - (SRIJAYA)				
JANUARY, 2000/10 / 26/337				
COMBINED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUMMARY 14/02/1992				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	
	30 PRICE	30 PRICE	30 PRICE	
ADAM BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM NATIONAL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM INVESTMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SECURITIES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TRADING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM COMMERCIAL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM INDUSTRIAL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM AGRICULTURAL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM MARITIME BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM AIRCRAFT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SPACECRAFT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TELECOMMUNICATIONS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ENERGY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ENVIRONMENTAL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM HEALTHCARE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TECHNOLOGY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM MEDIA BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RECREATION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TRANSPORTATION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM LOGISTICS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CONSTRUCTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM REAL ESTATE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM FINANCIAL SERVICES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM INSURANCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM PENSION FUND BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TRUST BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ESTATE PLANNING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TAX SERVICES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ACCOUNTING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM LEGAL SERVICES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CONSULTING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM MANAGEMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM TRAINING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RESEARCH BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ANALYTICS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM DATA SERVICES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM IT SUPPORT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM NETWORKING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SECURITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SYSTEMS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SOFTWARE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM HARDWARE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM PERIPHERALS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM STORAGE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM BACKUP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RECOVERY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM MIGRATION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ARCHIVING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM DISASTER RECOVERY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM BUSINESS CONTINUITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RISK MANAGEMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM COMPLIANCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GOVERNANCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ETHICS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABILITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CLIMATE CHANGE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM WATER MANAGEMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM WASTE MANAGEMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM POLLUTION CONTROL BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM AIR QUALITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SOIL QUALITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM NOISE POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM VIBRATION POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM LIGHT POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RADIO FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM THERMAL POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CHEMICAL POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM BIOLOGICAL POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM NUCLEAR POLLUTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SPACE DEBRIS BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM OZONE DEPLETION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM ACID RAIN BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GLOBAL WARMING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM RENEWABLE ENERGY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN ECONOMY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM CIRCULAR ECONOMY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM BLUE ECONOMY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN FINANCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE FINANCE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN INVESTMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN PORTFOLIO BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE PORTFOLIO BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN EQUITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE EQUITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN BOND BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE BOND BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN CREDIT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE CREDIT BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN LEASING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE LEASING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN FACTORING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE FACTORING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN MERCHANT BANKING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE MERCHANT BANKING BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN TREASURY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE TREASURY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN DERIVATIVES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE DERIVATIVES BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN OPTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE OPTION BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN FUTURE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE FUTURE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN COMMODITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN CURRENCY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE CURRENCY BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN FOREX BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE FOREX BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN MONEY MARKET BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE MONEY MARKET BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN INTEREST RATE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE INTEREST RATE BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN CREDIT DEFAULT SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE CREDIT DEFAULT SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN EQUITY SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
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ADAM SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
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ADAM SUSTAINABLE CURRENCY SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM GREEN FOREX SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
ADAM SUSTAINABLE FOREX SWAP BANK	24,120	134,800	134,000	134,000
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Convoy leaves for eastern Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — A convoy carrying food and medicine headed Sunday to a desperate and isolated eastern Bosnian town. Sarajevo continued to boycott aid to protest the east's plight.

U.N. officials, facing mounting hostility from residents and city leaders in Sarajevo, said they hoped to begin medical evacuations from the besieged city soon.

Distribution centres in the capital remained quiet on the third day of what city authorities say is a hunger strike in solidarity with thousands of people trapped for months in eastern Bosnia by Serb sieges.

The city council, backed by the Muslim-led government, announced Friday it would stop distributing the food aid that has kept Sarajevo residents alive during a 10-month siege. The council said it would resume distribution only after convoys reach Slavic Muslims and others in eastern Bosnia.

Fighting and Serbs — sometimes soldiers, sometimes unarmed civilians — have blocked U.N. convoys from reaching several towns in eastern Bosnia for months.

Early Sunday, trucks loaded with food and medicine left the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, for Cerska, isolated since the war began last spring.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in Belgrade said the convoy had reached the Serb-held eastern Bosnian town of Zvernik and was headed for Cerska.

Bosnian government radio said Saturday that 166 people have starved recently in Cerska. But government reports of mass starvation have been disputed by U.N. officials in the past.

Serb fighters recently allowed some 6,000 Muslims to flee the Cerska area for nearby Muslim-held Tuzla, where relief agencies said many arrived in terrible condition, with disease and frostbite.

Tuzla, 80 kilometres north of Sarajevo, declared Saturday it

would join the capital's fast and refuse more aid until those trapped by fighting are fed.

UNHCR envoy Jose-Maria Mendiluce headed to the Serb stronghold of Pale, just east of Sarajevo, for talks about getting more convoys to eastern Bosnia, said Karin Landgren, a Swede taking over UNHCR's Sarajevo operations.

Ms. Landgren said there are 2,300 tonnes of food and medical supplies in warehouses in Sarajevo and at the airport.

The warehouses are 65 per cent full, she said. U.N. officials have said stockpiled food may spoil.

Ms. Landgren reported plans for medical evacuations from the city, where some wounded have waited for months without proper treatment or artificial limbs.

"A doctor is coming in next week to review who needs to go, and get it started," she said.

Meanwhile, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has warned his troops to stay out of politics.

"It would be the greatest tragedy if soldiers came to power," he told Sarajevo Television Saturday night.

Kemal Mufic, an adviser to Mr. Izetbegovic, said the president was responding to complaints from some members of Bosnia's forces that the government was not doing enough to provide them with arms and ammunition in their fight against rebel Serbs.

Mr. Mufic said there was no threat of a coup against Mr. Izetbegovic.

The president, asked by an interviewer whether the army was changing its political attitudes, said troops should stick to the task of ending the siege of Sarajevo and resisting Serbs in other parts of Bosnia.

"The more a soldier is politicized, the less he is a soldier," Mr. Izetbegovic said.

He said his government would continue to take account of the views of ordinary soldiers because they were "the same thing



A boy warms his hand and tries to heat some food on a rubbish fire at a Sarajevo market after the city rejected all aid until relief convoys get through to eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP photo)

as the armed people."

But the government had never allowed the military to impose its views and Bosnia would remain democratic, he said.

In Vatican City, Pope John Paul II appealed again Sunday for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, asking political leaders there to make every effort to end the violence and allow humanitarian aid to reach the needy.

The Pontiff told about 10,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square that the situation in the Balkans "becomes more tragic and cruel every day."

"I invite yet again all the be-

lievers to ask God with me to give the gift of peace to the tortured population of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to guide the consciences of those who govern to make every effort to end the violence and permit humanitarian aid to reach its destination."

In a separate development, Croatian radio said Sunday that Serb forces in the rebel Krajina enclave shelled targets around the Adriatic port of Zadar overnight.

The area of Novigrad, Kasic and Maslenica was hit but there was no immediate word of casualties.

Moscow edges away from West

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow is edging away from its honeymoon with the powerful democracies of the West, nurturing instead the hopes of regaining superpower status which Russia itself has rejected since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Senior Russian officials have taken to making speeches with harsh criticism of the West. A new blueprint of Russia's foreign policy priorities names currying favour with the West as one of the main policy weaknesses of the recent past.

"We have been suffering from over-excitement with the abstract ideas of non-conflicting globalism," says the document, presented to parliament late last week.

"The time has come to take care of our national interests by using economic, diplomatic, military and other means."

The policy document represented a sharp change of outlook by the Foreign Ministry which drafted it.

Widely considered one of the most powerful bulwarks of liberalism in a fierce political power struggle with conservatives inside Russia, the Foreign Ministry has come under right-wing fire for its overtures to the West.

Last year Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev shocked a Euro-

pean security conference in Stockholm by saying Moscow could use military force and economic pressure to reassert Russian domination in the former Soviet Union.

Minutes later he said his speech was just a scare tactic designed to show what could happen if conservative opposition took over in Moscow.

But the draft foreign policy plan, designed on the same lines as the speech, does not seem part of a game.

"The creation of Russia's geopolitical environment is under way, with the outcome depending on our ability to reinstate international law and good neighbourliness through persuasion and in exceptional cases through the use of force," it says.

The Foreign Ministry echoed opposition claims, which it used to reject out of hand, that Russia should remain a dominant power in the former Soviet Union as well as in Eastern Europe.

"We cannot rule out the possibility of attempts by the United States to replace Russia in the zone of its traditional influence under the cover of mediatory or peacekeeping missions," says the document.

"Russia will oppose any attempts by third parties to build up a military and political pre-

sence in border countries...we also cannot allow the West to push Russia out of the East European region," it adds.

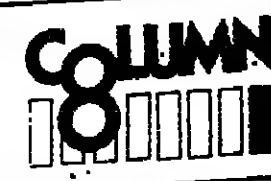
"There are few countries in the West which are interested in making Russia strong and united," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a meeting of local government leaders, shown by Russian Television Saturday.

On the same day Security Minister Viktor Baranikov accused Western secret services of cultivating a mafia trade in arms and narcotics to undermine Russia.

In a speech recalling declarations by Soviet officials before the failed hardline coup of 1991, he said Western intelligence agencies were helping Russian organized crime to forge links with international criminal organisations.

Presenting the new foreign policy guidelines in parliament Friday, Mr. Kozyrev, a co-author of Moscow's pro-Western policy, hinted at the increasing influence on President Boris Yeltsin by Russia's arch-conservative nationalist opposition.

Answering a deputy, who inquired whether his ministry was working under serious conservative pressure, he said: "In fact I don't know who is in opposition today."



In Brazil, carnival starts in the womb

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Even mothers-to-be are making sure their babies can dance samba at this year's Rio Carnival. As Brazil falls under the magic spell cast annually by carnival, organisers have set up a parade section where dozens of pregnant women can parade and dance in the city's world-famous celebrations. Globo Television reported. Expectant mothers even have a special school where they can learn moves for dancing to the samba, carnival's trademark music. Before joining the school or entering the parade the women must undergo a medical examination, the television said. "This is too much fun, and I want to pass on all the happiness I feel to my son," said Ana Paula, a samba school dancer who is five months pregnant. Ceremonies marking the start of carnival — a pre-ten explosion of dancing, drinking and revelry across Brazil — take place in Rio Thursday. The merry-making ends on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Valentine's Day prompts offbeat British endeavours

LONDON (R) — Britons swapped romantic Valentine's Day endeavours using a galaxy of offbeat nicknames such as "sugarcoated snuggleplum," "cuddlepump" and "tubaluh." The usually reserved British display their feelings on Valentine's Day, which falls on a Sunday this year, and anonymous public expressions of love abounded in the columns of national newspaper in advance of Feb. 14. Many were incomprehensible, with the code only obvious to the recipient, a few were worthy of the censor and others just old-fashioned proposals. Most drew heavily on the animal kingdom. "My darling gibbon, all my love snuggles rabbit," said one in the Times. "Mr. Andrew Cat, purr, purr, miaow, miaow. Lots of nuzzles, Miss Judith Cat," was another message. Others were more specific. "Let's do the Kama Sutra together," was the invitation to tubaluh from amorous H. Some were far from complimentary — "you smell like a cabbage and look like a leek."

Japan ex-premier gets surprise Valentine's treat

TOKYO (R) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita got a surprise Valentine's Day gift Sunday — chocolate bearing a message telling him to quit. Mr. Takeshita, under public pressure to resign for his role in a money-and-mobster scandal, is due to testify on the affair under oath in parliament this week. According to Kyodo News Agency, 12 women wearing the traditional garb of Japanese messengers gathered in front of Mr. Takeshita's residence and shouted: "We love Mr. Takeshita because he is candidly going to resign (from parliament)." The women then handed Mr. Takeshita's secretary a large heart-shaped box of chocolates bearing the boldly daubed message telling him to step down.

Ted Kennedy Jr. to wed psychiatrist

BOSTON (AP) — Edward M. Kennedy Jr., the son of the Massachusetts senator, will marry a psychiatrist who teaches at Yale University, the senator's office announced Saturday. Mr. Kennedy, 31, will marry Dr. Katherine Anne Gershman, said Melody Miller, a spokeswoman for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. They met three years ago at a chamber music recital at Yale. They were not willing to speak with reporters. Mr. Miller said. The wedding will be in the fall, although no date or location has been set, she said.

Gem dealer with royal links faces jail in Britain

LONDON (R) — Gem dealer Darius Guppy, a close friend of Princess Diana's brother, was found guilty of an insurance swindle and now faces a long jail term. Mr. Guppy acted as best man when Princess Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, married model Victoria Lockwood in 1989. Mr. Guppy and his business associate Benedict Marsh, both 28, were convicted of conspiracy charges involving fraud, theft and false accounting. They will be sentenced at a later date. Judge Andrew Brooks said: "I don't want you to leave the dock with any illusions. You are both going to prison for a very long time."

De Klerk: No fixed agreement with ANC

LONDON (R) — South African President F.W. de Klerk said Sunday his government had not entered into a fixed agreement with the African National Congress (ANC) on power-sharing.

Mr. De Klerk told a British television interviewer any final agreement on a new constitution must wait for multi-party talks, adding it was essential the Inkatha Freedom Party played a role in the negotiating process to avoid a break-up of the republic.

"We are going to have a few days of fundamental discussion with Inkatha next week. I think Inkatha must be brought into the negotiating process. I think it's fundamental."

"Otherwise we might be looking for trouble in South Africa. We don't want to go the Yugoslav way."

On Friday the government and the ANC appeared to have reached agreement to defer majority rule until 1999, five years after elections late this year or early in 1994 for an interim government of national unity.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned Saturday of possible bloodshed if the South African government and the ANC tried to impose their constitutional plans for the country's future on the Zulu people.

Mr. De Klerk was at pains in the interview to remove the idea of a government/ANC deal.

"We are not making deals in our bilateral discussions at the moment," he told Sir David Frost. "The interpretation that we have entered into fixed agreements is wrong."

"We believe final agreement must be reached at a multi-party conference representative of all parties in the country. The focus is now on getting multi-party negotiations going again."

Mr. De Klerk said there was a convergence of views in the republic about the principle of devolution of "meaningful" power to regional governments. "By that time (the election) at least the borders of the regions must be in place," Mr. De Klerk said.

"It is part of the growing consensus...regions must also elect regional representatives who will play a major role in the constitution-writing process."

He said there was no agreement yet about what percentage of the election vote parties must win before they could become part of a government of national unity.

"A form of proportionality might be part of the final solution," he said.

Mr. De Klerk said he did not want his successor as president to have as much power as he had, and raised the possibility of a rotating chairmanship of the cabinet.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian Communists try to regroup

SOROKINO, Russia (AP) — More than 1,000 Communists greeted the leaders of the failed 1991 hardline coup with a standing ovation at a meeting aimed at reviving the discredited Communist Party. "We have survived. Our president goes abroad and says that Communism is dead in Russia. But the Communist movement is becoming stronger," proclaimed Ivan Yakushin, a communal farm chairman. The stage was decorated with a white bust of Lenin. Despite the fanfare, the Communist Party is no longer regarded as a major political movement in Russia. The party's membership dwindled in the last years of Soviet power, and most Communist rallies in Moscow now draw fewer than 5,000 people. The Communists, mostly men in their 40s and 50s, gathered at the Klyazna Reservoir Port, several nondescript yellow brick buildings in a pine forest near the village of Sorokino, 15 kilometres north of Moscow. Anatoly Lukyanov, the former Soviet parliament leader who had been accused of taking part in the coup, told the crowd that Communism has a future in Russia.

Chinese police stop 69 'boat people'

HONG KONG (R) — Chinese police have seized a fishing boat carrying 69 people hoping to sail illegally to Australia, the Peking-controlled China News Service said. The would-be emigrants had each paid up to 4,000 yuan (\$700) to board the craft on the coast of the southern province of Guangxi, which was loaded with enough food for the trip and equipped with sophisticated navigational aids, the weekend report said. The ringleader of the group faced criminal charges, it said, describing the 69 as guilty of attempting to "leave the country illegally." Chinese citizens must have exit visas to travel abroad.

IRA shoots man in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Gunmen of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot and injured a man outside a Belfast pub early Sunday, police said. The man was hit in the leg and the arm as he got out of a car outside the pub. His attackers fled in another car. The IRA, fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, later claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to a local radio station.

'Soviets sank 2 nuclear ships in Baltic'

HAMBURG (AP) — The former Soviet Union disposed of two nuclear-powered ships by sinking them in the Baltic Sea, Der Spiegel news magazine said. It was unclear whether radioactivity was leaking from the vessels, the Hamburg-based magazine said in a summary of a report in its next issue, to be released Monday. Russian officials have gradually been releasing information on careless handling of nuclear materials on land and in the Arctic Ocean. But Spiegel's report appeared to be the first on nuclear materials possibly sunk in the narrow Baltic, bordered by Poland, Germany and the Baltic and Scandinavian countries. Spiegel said the German government feared radioactive contamination could enter the food chain through fish in the Baltic. It said the sunken vessels were one civilian ship and one military ship.

Ghali due for Tokyo talks

TOKYO (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali arrives in Japan Monday to seek Tokyo's backing for his ideas on strengthening the world body and its global peacekeeping activities. For Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Dr. Ghali's five-day visit offers a chance to advance Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Dr. Ghali is to meet Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Emperor Akihito as well as deliver three policy speeches and officially open the new headquarters of the United Nations University in Tokyo. As with his January trip to Germany, Dr. Ghali's visit to Japan takes place amid speculation that the world body will soon take steps to reflect an international power balance radically changed from the late 1940s when the U.N. was founded.

Evacuation near Philippine volcano begins

MABINIT, Philippines (R) — Troopers herded hundreds of Filipinos from their homes near Mount Mayon Sunday and loaded pigs and chickens onto trucks to clear villages threatened by the volcano's eruptions. Scientists kept a close watch while Mayon, which killed more than 60 people earlier this month, rumbled and spewed glowing rocks overnight after a series of moderate eruptions since Friday.

Craxi hints at juicy revelations

ROME (R) — Italy's former Socialist leader Bettino Craxi has hinted he will not hesitate to make potentially explosive disclosures in the battle to clear his name of corruption charges.

"I am going to have to reveal many things," he said. "I want all things Italian to be brought to justice."

Speaking to reporters over the weekend, former Prime Minister Craxi said he would continue to fight attempts to indict him.

He had been under intense pressure to resign since last December when he received the first official warning he was suspected of involvement in a huge bribery scandal.

But he made it clear he did not regard his resignation as an admission of guilt.

Political analysts have regarded him as doomed for the last three months. The question now, they believe, is how many people he will take down with him.

In particular, they wonder whether Mr. Craxi will make any damaging accusations which might jeopardise the shaky coalition of his fellow Socialist Prime Minister Giuliano Amato.

Mr. Craxi has always claimed the Socialists — main victims in the bribery scandal — were being unfairly singled out.

His former deputy Gianni De Michelis has said the scandal could just as easily have crippled the dominant Christian Democrats if it had broken out in their power base of Rome instead of the Socialists' stronghold of Milan.

Charles wins rousing welcome from U.S. students

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia (R) — American university students gave Prince Charles a rousing welcome on the first full day of his U.S. visit, the first overseas trip since the official collapse of his marriage.

Heckled at home for the embarrassing "camillagate" scandal, the British heir to the throne broke from his prepared speech in this southern colonial town in an ebullient show of joy at the thumping applause that greeted him.

"I'm very touched, if I might say so," Prince Charles said, soaking up the cheer from a 10,000-strong audience at the College of William and Mary.

All I can say is that it's wonderful to come to Virginia and receive such an incredibly warm and encouraging welcome. Thank you very much indeed."

College officials said they could not recall any previous speaker receiving such an enthusiastic welcome.

It was the first U.S. test of Prince Charles's popularity since his December split from Princess Diana, the glamorous young wife

held in higher esteem than her husband in British opinion polls.

Their breakup followed publication of a saucy phone conversation said to be between Prince Charles and married ex-girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles. The couple on the tape held a steamy bedtime chat, taped long before the royals officially split.

Prince Charles' public standing has crumbled at home, although ticket-holders to his 20-minute speech stood in line for up to six hours to see the king-in-waiting on the one public event of his three-day U.S. trip.

On Sunday, the prince was due to fly to Houston, Texas, before heading to Mexico for an official visit at the invitation of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

His speech was vintage Charles.

Queen Elizabeth's 44-year-old eldest son returned to a favourite theme — the value of simpler times and the spiritual vacuum created by consumerism — in urging a return to traditional values.

"I claim no special insight,"

said Prince Charles.

But he added: "Why is it that while the means for achieving happiness have never been greater, the incidence of stress and depression also seems to be greater than ever before?"

The technological rush of today, he said, can rob people of humanity.

"We certainly become more knowing, but we do not seem to become any more civilised," he said in a celebration for the 300th anniversary of the college, one of the most prestigious in the United States.

For Prince Charles, the setting could hardly have been more appropriate. Williamsburg, a town of rambling old buildings named for Prince Charles's 17th century ancestor William III, was the colonial capital of Virginia, once Britain's most prosperous outpost in America.

Prince Charles last spoke at Williamsburg in 1981, the year of his "fairytale wedding."

"In those days I was young and relatively inexperienced. In those days I am middle-aged and relatively inexperienced," he

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton will propose for an orb that it will cost significantly less in coming years.

President Bill Clinton, who is trying to tackle a federal budget deficit of well over \$300 billion, said separately on Saturday that there would be some changes in the huge U.S. space programme but he gave no details of what they would be.

Ten European countries, along with Canada and Japan, are participating in the space station Freedom project for an orbiting space laboratory. Current estimates are that it will cost between \$30 billion and \$40 billion to build and \$100 billion to maintain over its proposed 30-year life in space.

"What you've had here in this programme is steadily increasing cost overruns, mismanagement, especially at one of the centres,"

Gore said in a television interview.

He stressed that there was no intention to alter the programme's objectives.

Rumours had circulated that Mr. Clinton would kill the proposed space station or drastically cut the current U.S. spending level of about \$2.1 billion.

Mr. Clinton, responding to the rumour, said he was a big backer of space programmes but there "may be some changes."

"I think you all know I've always been a big supporter of NASA and the space programme and the technologies it can repre-

sent," Mr. Clinton told reporters who asked whether he would cut funding for the space station.

"I think the people who care about that (space programmes) will be pleased by the recommendations we make," the president said at the start of a meeting with congressmen.

"There may be some changes," he added without elaborating.

Meanwhile, despite a government-wide effort to cut costs, a coalition of environmental groups urged President Clinton Saturday to spend more than \$1 billion to buy hundreds of private parcels of land for parks and recreation.

The Wilderness Society and 35 other groups warned that if the areas, totalling thousands of acres (hectares), aren't taken over by the government they could fall prey to development.

While the government needs to address the burgeoning budget deficit, the money needed to protect these sensitive lands is an investment "that will pay us and future generations back forever,"

Wilderness Society President George Frumpton said.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt indicated last week that he wants to make expanding the national park system and rectifying its \$2 billion maintenance backlog a top priority.